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Further on Four-Nation African Summit in Djanet

NC1009192890 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, Sept 10 (AFP)—Development of frontier zones in the Sahara Desert as a way of tackling problems posed by Tuareg nomads was ordered by a four-nation summit held in Algeria at the weekend.

The leaders of Algeria, Libya, Mali and Niger set up a permanent committee of interior ministers to prepare development schemes and also to ensure a strict check on clandestine emigration.

The four neighbours' foreign ministers are to meet twice a year to monitor progress, a communique issued at Djanet in south-east Algeria said.

The four governments have become concerned in recent years at the scale of unrestricted border crossings by nomads. There has been no census for a decade, but their numbers are put at 600,000.

Since May, bloody clashes in northern Niger and Mali between Tuaregs and security forces have left dozens of dead and wounded on both sides in a series of raids and reprisals. Travellers have reported an unusual degree of violence, with camps set on fire and government buildings wrecked.

Amnesty International has called for a probe into alleged summary executions of Tuaregs in Mali.

Many nomads moved to Algeria and Libya during the early 1980s to escape widespread drought, and are complaining as they return south that local authorities are doing nothing to assist and are imposing intolerable restrictions on their freedom of movement.

The Tuareg are generally held to be involved in smuggling basic necessities and weapons in addition to their traditional stockraising.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1009135490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Djanet, 10 Sep, JANA—A joint communique has been issued following the summit meeting held in Djanet, in fraternal Algeria, between the brother leader of the revolution, President Chadli Bendjedid, [Malian] President Moussa Traore, and [Niger] President Ali Saibou. The following is the text:

At the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, a quadripartite summit meeting was convened in Djanet 8-9 September with the participation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih [September]; Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali; and Ali Saibou, president of Niger.

The brother leader of the Great September revolution and the three presidents held fruitful talks in camera which were later expanded to include the rest of delegations. Such talks were held in an atmosphere of frankness and friendship.

The four leaders have welcomed their important meeting, which falls within the framework of the traditional consultations between their respective countries' various levels, in line with their joint determination to continue aiming at expanding unity and solidarity between African countries and in the benefit of their neighbors and fraternal peoples.

The leaders reviewed their respective countries' relations, which are based upon the historical bonds of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation.

On this occasion they reaffirmed their firm commitment to exerting every effort to develop and deepen neighborliness, and active cooperation between their respective countries to comprehensively achieve their respective peoples' legitimate aspirations for stability, progress, prosperity, and security within the framework of comprehensive development and stability.

The leaders have been eager to vehemently stress that the various humanitarian bonds which have been knitted over a number centuries along the common borders of their respective countries are a priceless common heritage between their peoples.

Their excellencies, the leaders, were eager to reaffirm the existence of this heritage that gives a strong impulse to serving the natural cooperation between African neighbors. They therefore believe priority should be given to preserving this heritage and promoting it on the basis of the following principles, which they are keen to reemphasize:

- The origins and principles of the Charter of African Unity, notably those pertaining to noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, peaceful solutions to disputes, and respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states that continuously uphold relations of goodneighborliness;

- The stability and security of every country is necessary for the stability and security of the states of the region;

- The aspiration for the prosperity of their peoples is based equally on the national policies for balanced development, and on the need for mobilizing regional solidarity and international cooperation in the context of inter-African integration.

The entrenching of the noble common objectives above is aimed at giving a second breath to their action in this direction.

Their excellencies, the leaders, have agreed on the following:

1. Setting up a common permanent ministerial committee under the common control of the ministers in charge of interior and local development to oversee the following tasks:

- Intensifying bilateral economic, technical, cultural, and social cooperation to promote a balanced development for their respective countries and permanent improvement of the prosperity of their peoples.

- Continuation and strengthening of the development programs for their border regions on the one hand, and on the other hand the resettlement and integration of the concerned populations.

- Striving to respect rules and laws in the domain of the movement of persons and property between their countries, and to fight the manifestations of infiltration and illegal immigration by means of intensive cooperation between the concerned services of the four countries.

- Strengthening of the arrangements for control and surveillance at the level of border regions, and exchanging information between the administrative services of these countries.

This permanent ministerial committee will meet in turn once every three months in one of the four countries, or at the request of one of the four countries.

2. Setting up organized consultation between the four foreign ministers to strengthen the traditional relations of fraternity, neighborliness, and cooperation between their respective countries.

- Assessing and giving momentum to the bulk of relations between their respective countries to endeavor to bring their peoples closer to one another, and to promote regional cooperation.

- Preparing working proposals and presenting them to the four leaders. This consultation will take place every six months in one of the countries in turn.

3. Starting consultations with the member states of the Saharan states organization to give an impulse to this favored framework for regional cooperation.

Their excellencies, the leaders, have expressed satisfaction at the fraternal and constructive nature of the Djanet summit, and have agreed to continue regular consultations between them.

On the other hand, their excellencies Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Moussa Traore, and President Ali Saibou have expressed their great thanks to President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian people for the initiative to hold this summit, and for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded to them during their stay in Algeria.

Written in Djanet on 9 September, 1990.

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments

LD1009165190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Djanet, 10 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution yesterday held a news conference in Djanet, southern Algeria, attended by a large number of Arab and international press agency, radio, and newspaper reporters.

The brother leader pointed out at the beginning of the news conference that he came to Algeria to attend the quadripartite summit meeting of the four countries: the great Jamahiriyah, Algeria, Mali, and Niger.

He said: I express my gratitude to President Chadli Bendjedid who agreed to this idea, and sent invitations for these brothers. He stressed that this idea came after the events that the whole world spoke about, namely, bloody military clashes between Tuareg tribes in Mali and Niger and the governments of these countries.

The brother leader went on: For this reason I was personally eager that this summit be held, because the security of this region is one and indivisible. We do not want to destabilize security in this region, nor do we want the Chadian civil war to contaminate neighboring countries, especially after the arms trade has spread from Chad to these countries.

The brother leader of the revolution recalled that the Tuaregs were Arab Libyan tribes, and Libya is their original homeland, saying: These tribes came to these countries from Libya, and, therefore, they were considered to be aliens. Since the Tuareg tribes are Himyarite and Phoenician tribes of Arab origin who came from the Arabian peninsula more than 5,000 years ago, they are considered an unsettled element in some of these areas, and they see this as racist.

The brother leader of the revolution added in his news conference: We came to help our neighbors and brothers in Mali and Niger resolve this problem. Unfortunately, we failed to arrive at a solution because the government of Mali, for instance, believes what is now taking place is a kind of highway banditry and lawlessness, whereas the Tuaregs believe they have a political cause, and, therefore, we will not arrive at a compromise between the two sides.

In this news conference, the brother leader declared his support for the governments of Niger and Mali and the heads of these two states, saying: At the same time, we cannot allow the practice of genocide.

The brother leader said: On this occasion, and to ensure stability in this region and save the Touaregs from decimation, and to help our brothers in Mali, Niger, and the Saharan states, we must appeal to all the Tuareg tribes to return to Libya, their country of origin, on the condition that this takes place openly and without infiltration. These states should help us do this.

The brother leader of the revolution invited Tuareg tribes everywhere to hold people's congresses to decide their destiny, and to consider the great Jamahiriyah as their country of origin. He said: They can seek refuge in it during this ordeal.

The brother leader of the revolution also said: Despite the fact that I stand on the side of the Tuaregs and against their decimation, I am at the same time against the acts of violence they are now committing. Violence causes them more harm than good because it will lead to a violent reaction. He stressed that what is happening to the Tuareg tribes in this manner would not resolve their problem.

The brother leader explained in his news conference that this issue is an issue of nationalist conflict as predicted by the Green Book: every national group wants self-determination. Islam did not unify these groups which are at odds nationally, and this is a proof that the conflict is a nationalistic conflict, and that it is the nationalist factor that changes the map of the world.

Inter-Arab

Arab League Council Begins Emergency Session

Ministers Arrive, Comment

NC1009130690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Kharjeh Hared, Djibouti interior minister and acting foreign minister; and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, arrived in Cairo today to attend the Arab League Council's meeting scheduled to be held this evening to declare the return of the Arab League General Secretariat's headquarters to Cairo. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif received Egypt's guests upon their arrival.

In separate statements upon their arrivals, al-Faysal, al-Shar', and Shaykh al-Sabah expressed their satisfaction over the results of the Helsinki summit, which stressed the importance of Iraq's withdrawing from Kuwait and the need to follow up the implementation of the UN resolutions.

Omani Official Arrives, Comments

NC1009190190 Cairo MENA in English 1542 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 10 (MENA)—Haytham Bin-Tariq Bin-Sa'id, Omani first foreign undersecretary, arrived here this afternoon to attend the emergency Arab League session, due to be held here tonight to announce the return of the Arab League General Secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Cairo, in accordance with the Arab League charter. The Omani official said that his country welcomed the outcome of Helsinki summit which condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He also reiterated his country's abidance by the Security Council resolutions as well as that of Cairo emergency summit which was recently held in Egypt to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Kuwaiti Minister on Solution

NC1009144690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend the emergency session of the Arab League Council which will begin work in Cairo this evening. The council will announce the transfer of the Arab League General Secretariat headquarters to Cairo, in accordance with the League's charter.

Upon arrival, Shaykh Sabah stated that he is still hoping for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Commenting on ongoing Arab efforts in that connection, Shaykh Sabah said these efforts were rejected by the Iraqis. However, he said, efforts are still being made, the most recent of which was the Libyan initiative. He stressed that his country believes that any initiative must be within the framework of the Arab League.

He noted that today's meeting will not touch on issues other than the transfer of the Arab League Secretariat headquarters. [passage omitted]

Message From 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1009191190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The emergency session of the Arab League Council began in Cairo at the foreign minister's level this evening to discuss the announcement of the transfer of the Arab League General Secretariat to Cairo.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, addressed a message to members of the council in which he said that he would have wanted to receive the foreign ministers on their arrival in Cairo. However, he was unable to because of unexpected circumstances. The same circumstances prevented him from participating in person in the emergency Arab League Council session which was called by Egypt to announce the return of the Arab League to its permanent heaquarters in Cairo, in accordance with Article 10 of the Arab League charter, and in implementation of Resolution No. 4983 adopted by the council last March.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he trusts that the Council members agree with him that the Arab League's return to its permanent headquarters in Cairo is putting things in their right perspective. He stressed that this matter is unavoidable if the Arab League's role and entity are to be maintained.

He reiterated that through close cooperation and constant coordination with all sister Arab states, Egypt will endeavor to keep the Arab League as a home for all Arabs at all times out of its deep-rooted belief that the League must be above all passing disputes among Arab states.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid addressed greetings to [former Arab League Secretary-General] Chedli Klibi, thanking him for his efforts to implement the Arab League resolution. He prayed to the Almighty that this resolution will help serve Arab people and defend legitimate Arab rights so that the Arab nation can prove to the world that it is capable of an effective contribution to the creation of a new world in which safety, security, and peace for all the peoples of the world prevail.

Al-Huss Presents Note

NC1009185990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has presented a note to the Arab League general secretariat which, in turn, has distributed the note to the Arab foreign ministers [now convening in Cairo]. In the note, Prime Minister al-Huss emphasized that the collapse that afflicted the national economy during and because of the developments in the Gulf has pushed Lebanon—country, society, and state—to the abyss, especially as these developments came at a time when Lebanon has been suffering from a destructive crisis that has now entered its 16th year and that has rendered Lebanon incapable of fighting it.

In his note, Dr. Salim al-Huss explained that the inflationary conditions have reached destructive proportions. This is in addition to the inveterate unemployment that has been exacerbated by the return of thousands of Lebanese from Kuwait, Iraq, and some African states, at a time when many lebanese are leaving Lebanon for abroad taking with them the best capabilities, expertise, and qualifications.

While warning that the general situation is threatened with collapse and explosion and portends unlimited grave social consequences as a result of rampant poverty, need, and unemployment, Dr. al-Huss said that all this places the young legitimate authority under terrible and intolerable daily pressure.

The prime minister also warned that the Gulf event threatens to torpedo the path of unity and accord that has been achieved under the auspices of the Tripartite Committee and throw Lebanon, with everything and everybody in it, into a bottomless pit.

Concluding his note, Prime Minister al-Huss said: It is our duty toward ourselves and toward those who have assisted us, sponsored our march, and dopted our cause and fate, to present to you the true though ugly, facts and to direct your attention to the appeal that was made by the [tripartite] committee on 31 August in which it called on the Arab states and the rest of the international community to provide urgent aid to the Lebanese government to confront the damage Lebanon has suffered as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Shar' Confers on Sidelines

JN1009170790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has met with Dr. Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister and foreign minister; Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister; Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs; and Rashid 'Abdallah, United Arab Emirates minister of state for foreign affairs, on the sidelines of the Arab League Council's extraordinary meeting in Cairo this afternoon.

They discussed the developments in the region following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Headquarters Move Approved

NC1009183990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1746 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Foreign Ministers Council concluded its 90-minute meeting in Cairo this evening.

The Council unanimously endorsed two resolutions related to the transfer of the Arab League General Secretariat to Cairo and to compensations to employees and expenses involved in the transfer on a date not later than 31 December 1990.

The two resolutions take effect as of today.

Two Resolutions on Move

NC1009185290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Council, currently meeting in an extraordinary session in Cairo, this evening adopted two resolutions. The first provides for the following:

1. To announce the Arab League's return to its permanent headquarters in Cairo effective the date of this resolution;

2. To request the acting secretary general to officially notify all states and international, regional, and specialized organizations of this resolution; and,

3. To entrust the acting secretary-general with the task of embarking, immediately upon the issuance of this resolution, on coordination with the state hosting the League's permanent headquarters and with Tunisia on carrying out the transfer of the general secretariat, with all its departments and affiliated apparatus, to Cairo, no later than 31 October 1990. However, the deadline can be extended for certain departments for a further period not later than 31 December 1990.

The second resolution which the Arab League Council passed at the close of its meetings today calls for: 1. Thanking the five-member Ministerial Committee for approving the recommendations, taking into consideration the text of the resolution transferring the [Arab League] headquarters as the committee completed its task of studying the measures to implement the Arab League Council's resolution 4983; 2. Asking all member countries to provide the necessary funds to cover the transfer of the general secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Cairo on condition that this be undertaken through coordination between the government of the state in which the headquarters is situated and the acting secretary-general; 3. Settling the status of the employees and workers according to the provisions of resolution 4983; 4. Formation of a committee comprised of representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Syria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Tunisia, as well as the Arab League general secretariat. This committee shall be given the powers of the League's Council concerning the disbursement of allocations referred to in clauses two and three of this resolution; 5. Reducing the number of the general secretariat's staff so as not to exceed 500 employees; 6. The league's center [markaz] which it has been decided will be established in Tunis according to Resolution 4983, shall comprise the Arab organizations that have decided to remain in Tunis, in addition to an office for public relations and protocol. This center will be a link between the general secretariat in Cairo and these organizations; and 7. Entrusting the acting secretary-general with following up the measures to complete the building of the League's center referred to in the previous clause.

Saudi Foreign Minister Comments

NC1009195990 Cairo MENA in English 1853 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 10 (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said there has been a decision before the meeting of the Arab League Council in Tunis on transferring the league to its permanent headquarters in Cairo.

In a statement following the meetings, al-Faysal said a committee was formed to draw up bases of the transfer to the permanent headquarters.

The committee comprises the state of the permanent headquarters (Egypt), the state of the previous headquarters (Tunisia), Morocco, the United Arab Emirates and Syria.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Deals 'Damaging Blow' to Al-Banna

NC1009170090 Paris AFP in English 1611 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Beirut, Sept 10 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has struck a damaging blow against Abu-Nidal, a man regarded in Washington as a "master terrorist," while at the same time aligning himself with anti-U.S. forces in the current Gulf crisis.

Mr. 'Arafat's loyalists over the weekend drove Abu Nidal's partisans out of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon, the largest in the country, after two days of heavy fighting that left 78 dead and 240 wounded.

Zayd Wahbah, Mr. 'Arafat's personal representative in Lebanon, said the goal of the operation had been to "uproot terrorism completely."

He charged that Abu-Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), which broke from the Palestine Liberation Organization, had "harmed the Palestinian cause by kidnapping Westerners."

Abu-Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna, enjoys a similar reputation in the United States, where he is seen as one of the "masterminds of international terrorism."

Mr. 'Arafat in December 1988 issued a public commitment to renounce terrorism and thereby met one of Washington's demands for the start of a U.S.-PLO dialogue.

But the United States revoked a decision to talk to the PLO last June after the organization failed to expel Palestinian extremist Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad al-'Abbas] from its executive board.

The group headed by Mr. al-'Abbas, the Palestine Liberation Front, had claimed responsibility for an attempt to land commandos on the Israeli coast.

Arab diplomats here have said Mr. 'Arafat is anxious to convince the administration of President George Bush to reverse its move to suspend contacts.

But a senior official from Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction headed by Mr. 'Arafat, stressed that a confrontation with the United States was still likely.

"If 'Arafat has lined up behind Saddam Husayn, it's because he suspects that Washington really wants to sideline Middle East peace efforts," he added.

The PLO has refrained from backing Arab League resolutions condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait August 2 and denounced the subsequent buildup of U.S. and Western military forces in the Gulf.

The Fatah official said Mr. 'Arafat "makes a distinction between an operation against Israel, which occupies our land and refuses to recognize our rights, and terrorist acts like those committed by Abu-Nidal's people against civilian targets in Europe." [passage omitted]

After its eviction from 'Ayn al-Hulwah, the FRC will have access to only a few positions in the port city of Sidon and in the surrounding hills. But it still maintains a degree of mobility in areas of Lebanon controlled by Syria—despite the fact that Syria closed down FRC offices in Damascus in June 1987.

Abu-Nidal was recently under surveillance in Libya before leaving for Iraq.

Statements Attributed to 'Arafat on Gulf Denied

JN1109091890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 Sep 90 p 18

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—A Palestinian source has denied the statements AFP attributed to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during his meeting with an EC parliamentary delegation in Tunis on Tuesday [4 September].

The source said that the statements attributed to 'Arafat are groundless and without foundation.

According to AFP, "'Arafat revealed that there are differences of opinion between the PLO and the EC on the Gulf crisis." 'Arafat added: "We explained our position which is based on supporting the UN Security Council resolutions on the anti-Iraq sanctions. However, we made it clear that what we want is not to strangulate Iraq or to have war, but rather a withdrawal from Kuwait and a release of the hostages."

PNSF Wants End to Intra-Palestinian Fighting

JN1009130490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Dispatch by Louis Faris from Damascus]

[Text] The leadership of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] today reviewed the latest developments and studied in particular the intra-Palestinian fighting in 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Sidon. In a statement to our radio, PNSF leader Khalid al-Fahum said that the PNSF strongly condemns this internecine fighting and its ignitors and warns against its destructive results. Al-Fahum added that this fighting is unjustified and that the PNSF calls for stopping it immediately, mobilizing potentials, and aiming the rifles at the occupation.

Algeria

Hamrouche Interviewed on FRS, FLN Prospects

LD1009195190 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Algiers, 10 Sept (APS)—Head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche declared in an interview with AFP that a majority of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) at the People's National Assembly is a less probable hypothesis, except if by then the National Liberation Frnt (FLN) undergoes a crisis and thus cannot be able to overcome the question as regards its renewal. Mouloud Hamrouche also stressed on the present stability that marks the country and which is set within a logics [as received] of democracy and not within a logics of confrontation as well as institutional changes.

For the head of government, it is necessary for the other parties to deploy themselves on the ground and have an anchorage in society, otherwise the (FIS) will be the only solution. He moreover considers that it is not yet time to talk about alliances before knowing what do these political parties represent on the ground and the population they frame. Mouloud Hamrouche noted that these parties lost too much time with talks instead of going to meet the population. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Meets U.S. Congressional Delegation

NC0809212690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received in the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria a U.S. Congressional delegation led by John Murtha, chairman of the defense subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. After the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Husni Mubarak explained that, from the outset of the Gulf crisis, Egypt has been eager to find a peaceful political solution within an Arab framework and a way out for President Saddam Husayn to back down from the occupation of the State of Kuwait and restore its legitimacy.

President Mubarak noted that the resolutions of the Arab League Council, the Islamic foreign ministers, and the Arab summit reflected the conscience of Arab and Islamic public opinion and are consistent with the resolutions and consensus of the international community and organisations, which reject the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

During the meeting, President Mubarak said that proceeding from Egypt's principled stand, pan-Arab obligations, and respect for the Arab summit resolutions, Egyptian forces are deployed along with Saudi forces and in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in line with the fraternal and historic ties between Egypt and Saudi Arabia and all the Gulf states. He noted that the presence of Egyptian forces alongside Arab and Islamic forces is aimed at defending the holy land. He pointed out that the size of the Egyptian or other Arab and Islamic forces depends on Saudi Arabia's wishes, because these forces are operating under Saudi command and their stay is contingent upon Saudi Arabia's desire and will. He pointed out that Egypt will strongly support Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and all the Gulf states in their legitimate right to defend their territories and safeguard their national security.

President Mubarak said that despite the Iraqi regime's intransigence and squandering of the available opportunities for a political solution, we are dutybound to continue exerting efforts to reach a peaceful political solution and avert a military confrontation in the region. He expressed his hope that the international community's determination on Iraq's withdrawal and restoration of legitimacy and implementation of the Security Council resolutions would prompt this regime to reconsider its calculations in order to save the Iraqi people. He said that the attainment of this goal would avert a catastrophe in the region. He said that the attainment of this goal would not be surprising, because the Iraqi president agreed on all the Iranian conditions after an eight-year war in which the Iraqi people lost hundreds of thousands of men and sons, and enormous funds, even men and funds from the entire Arab nation.

During the meeting, he also said that in this situation we must not forget that the solution of the Palestinian issue is the cornerstone for achieving a comprehensive peace.

Mubarak Comments on Gulf Situation, Solution

NC0809145190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1334 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that Egypt's principled stand on the Gulf crisis is firm and based on the necessity for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimate authority to Kuwait.

Mubarak said: We have not lost hope in any effort to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully and without military intervention. He expressed hope that Iraq will yield to the international will so this crisis can be contained.

President Mubarak made these remarks when he visited Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-alMajid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at al-Muwasah Hospital in Alexandria to inquire about his health.

Algerian President Calls Mubarak on Gulf Crisis

NC0709193190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 7 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid this evening. The two leaders' conversation dealt with the developments resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Algeria condemned the Iraqi invasion right from the start.

Mubarak Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

NC1109092490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this morning.

UK's Hurd Sends Message to Ghali on Stand

NC1009195390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The British Government has expressed its appreciation of the stand the Egyptian leadership is adopting vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and the efforts being made by Egypt in this connection.

This came in a message sent today by British Foreign Secretary Sir Douglas Hurd to Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The message says the British Government understands the great sacrifices the Egyptian people are making because of the Gulf crisis. The Egyptian stand reflects an unshakable commitment to international legitimacy as represented by international resolutions on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, the message says.

The British ambassador in Cairo delivered the message to Dr. Ghali.

French Defense Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0709185490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Cairo this evening on a two-day visit. He was met by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production.

Comments on Military Cooperation

NC0809083890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0748 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement has expressed his country's appreciation of the important role Egypt is playing in the Middle East and in achieving balance in the Mediterranean and the Arab world, a role that is commensurate with Egypt's history and location.

This came in remarks Chevenement made following a one-hour session of Egyptian-French military talks. General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, led the Egyptian side to the talks.

The French minister praised cooperation between the two countries in all fields and described it as very important. He also expressed his country's faith in Egypt, its history, and its stature.

Chevenement said that the talks involved a quick review of issues of interest to both countries at this critical juncture. He expressed his hope that bilateral cooperation will increase and that Egypt's regional role will expand.

For his part, Gen. Abu-Talib commended bilateral cooperation and expressed the hope that it will be broadened to include new fields such as specific programs for research and technology transfer and the exchange of expertise and visits.

Gen. Abu-Talib said that the two countries have a history of military cooperation that goes back to the last century and includes the reorganization of the Egyptian Armed Forces, as well as other matters.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by the commanders of the major branches of the Armed Forces, the two assistant defense ministers, the chairman of the industrialization organization, and the Defense Ministry's secretary-general. On the French side, the members of the delegation accompanying Minister Chevenement as well as the French ambassador to Cairo attended the talks.

An official welcome ceremony for the French minister was held at the Defense Ministry building in Kubri al-Qubbah prior to the talks.

Meets Mubarak, Comments on Talks

NC0809141090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement held talks with President Husni Mubarak today. After the one-and-a-half-hour talks, the French minister said his long-planned visit to Egypt comes at a very important time.

He added: We assessed our close cooperation. Everyone knows that relations between Presidents Mubarak and Mitterrand are excellent and that Egyptian-French ties are closer than at any time before. In this current crisis, we are determined to implement the UN Security Council embargo. We believe that Iraq must give up Kuwait and that it should comply with international law.

He pointed out that Egypt can play a prominent role in this respect because it is a country with a long history and immense human capabilities. He went on: We believe Egypt can play a positive role for stability and peace in the region.

Asked whether the issue of Egypt's military debts to France was discussed, especially after U.S. President George Bush's decision to write off Egypt's military debts to the United States, he replied: We did not talk about debts. President Mitterrand had put forth certain proposals at the Houston conference. These proposals naturally apply to Egypt. The French foreign minister has informed world countries that the EC is determined to extend significant and immediate aid this year to all the region's countries, including Egypt. We will pursue our talks with the Egyptian defense minister in the presence of both the Egyptian and French delegations.

On the likelihood of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East, the French defense minister said: We had looked forward to this conference. France wanted such a conference to be held to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian issue a long time ago, but President Mitterrand believes that the implementation of the Security Council resolutions concerning the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait must take place before any thing else.

Asked about France's military cooperation with Iraq and whether France is reassessing its military cooperation with the Middle Eastern countries after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he said: Concerning Iraq, France fully supported this country, as did Egypt and other Arab countries during Iraq's war with Iran, because our policy has always aimed at achieving stability in this region. However, France is not now extending any help in any form to Iraq.

Asked whether this crisis will prompt France to supply Egypt with modern weapons, such as the (?Crotale), Mirage-2000, and Shahin missiles, he replied: We will talk about this with General Abu-Talib.

Holds News Conference

NC0809201290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1921 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement has stressed that the economic blockade against Kuwait and Iraq is effective, that Iraqi oil exports stopped four weeks ago, and that ship traffic to the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah has fallen 20 percent. At a news conference held at the French Embassy in Cairo this evening, he said: Our goal is for the blockade to be effective and yield results.

Asked about the possibility of an air blockade, the French minister said that this issue has been raised and is under discussion.

Regarding the hostages issue, the French minister pointed out that the UN resolutions focused on the necessity of withdrawal from Kuwait and release of the hostages in accordance with humanitarian and international laws. He said that Iraq must release these innocent hostages who used to foster cooperation between their countries and Iraq.

In response to a question on canceling the debts of poor countries and on whether France will write off the debts of certain countries that are currently suffering from the Gulf crisis, the French minister said that President Francois Mitterrand's proposals at the Houston summit will also apply to Egypt. He said that there are several options to solving this problem, noting that the EEC has decided to offer approximately $2 billion in aid to Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey during 1990-1991. He said that there is no difference between military and civilian debts. [passage omitted]

Views Ties With Egypt

NC0909103590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0938 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement has stated that French President Francois Mitterrand will visit Egypt shortly, within the framework of the strong relations between the two countries and the personal and cordial relations between Presidents Mubarak and Mitterrand.

In a statement today at the end of his visit to Egypt, Chevenement said that he has extended an official invitation to General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, to visit Paris. He added that Abu-Talib has accepted the invitation and that the date of the visit will be fixed later.

Regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Chevenement said that but for the current climate of world detente, the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait would have led to an international conflict and chaos.

On relations between Egypt and France, Chevenement stressed his country's desire to strengthen cooperation with Egypt. He explained that the two countries are linked by strong political, economic, and cultural ties. In addition, the two countries have a rich culture and civilization.

Chevenement said that his visit to Egypt gave him the opportunity to hold talks on strengthening military cooperation between the two countries. In this respect, he referred to the strong capability of the Egyptian Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit, Departs Cairo 9 Sep

NC0909191090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement left Cairo this evening at the end of a two-day visit during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. During his stay, he also held talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, on ways to promote military cooperation between the two countries in the fields of training, armaments, and exchange of expertise.

He was seen off at Cairo Airport by General Abu-Talib and members of the French Embassy staff.

Spanish Defense Minister Arrives at Hurghada

LD0809223790 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Excerpts] While everything is now ready for the meeting between Bush and Gorbachev in Helsinki, the situation in the region of the conflict is still one of uneasy calm. Spanish ships are moored in the Egyptian port of Hurghada where they are to be visited by Defense Minister Narcis Serra. The minister has now arrived in Egypt, where he has repeated that the mission of our ships is to guarantee that the embargo against Iraq is observed. Let us hear the details. Good evening Jaume Codina in the port of Hurghada:

[Codina] Good evening. This evening Defense Minister Narcis Serra, accompanied by Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Carlos Vila, arrived in the Egyptian tourist resort of Hurghada, about 600 km south of Cairo. The minister said that yesterday he signed a new directive laying down the mission of the Spanish naval group, which is now in the Red Sea. This directive replaces the one signed on 22 August and takes in UN Resolution 665 and the decisions of the West European Union at its meeting in Paris on Wednesday [5 September]. Narcis Serra said that now the prime minister will inform parliament, and then the political parties. Also on this occasion it is a matter of information which is considered classified, but in spite of this, it will be conveyed to members of parliament. Minister Serra confirmed that with the new instructions, the field of operation of the Spanish ships is unchanged: the Red Sea for the corvettes Cazadora and Descubierta, and the Strait of Hormuz for the frigate Santa Maria. In addition, the minister specified what the function of the three ships will be:

[Begin Serra recording] The Spanish ships are authorized to stop ships and inspect them under the terms which the United Nations has indicated. [passage omitted]

The mission of the ships is solely and exclusively to keep watch on merchant ships. They have the right to go on board, inspect their papers, learn the destination, and inform the UN monitoring committee if they believe there is an anomaly or a possibility of violation of the embargo. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Visits Spanish Flotilla at Port

LD0909174290 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] In the Egyptian port of Hurghada, Spanish Defense Minister Narcis Serra today visited the Spanish flotilla sent to the Persian Gulf. He gave the flotilla's commander, Francisco Rapallo, the new UN directive, signed in Madrid on Friday [7 September]. This new UN directive, which includes Resolution 665, establishes the maintenance of positions initially set out for the three Spanish ships. The new instruction in the directive is that the Spanish Navy ships will be able to inspect all merchant ships, whatever their nationality, if they are suspected of attempting to break the embargo against Iraq. This evening Serra will go to Cairo where he will have a meeting tomorrow with his Egyptian counterpart, Yusuf Abu-Talib.

Arrives in Cairo for Talks

NC0909180190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Spanish Defense Minister Narcis Serra i Serra arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a military delegation for a two-day visit to Egypt. The visit comes in response to an invitation by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister, who was at the airport to receive the Spanish guest.

A round of military talks between the Egyptian and Spanish sides will take place at the defense ministry tomorrow morning. Later, the Spanish official will lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Nasr city.

Meets With Mubarak, Abu-Talib

NC1109101490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0712 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Spanish Defense Minister Narcis Serra at the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this morning.

The meeting was attended by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production; the Spanish ambassador in Cairo; and the political adviser for foreign relations at the Spanish Defense Ministry.

[In a related report at 0850 GMT on 11 September datelined Alexandria, Cairo MENA in Arabic adds, "General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Egyptian armed forces and minister of defense and war production, has described the condition of the Egyptian forces in the Gulf as very satisfactory, saying that they are in excellent shape and enjoy high morale.

["Following the meeting between President Mubarak and the Spanish defense minister today, Gen. Abu-Talib said that all the members of the Egyptian forces are convinced of their mission. He explained that the Egyptian forces are equipped with all the means enabling them to carry out their tasks, whether defensive or means for protection against chemical weapons."]

Holds Military Talks

NC1009155590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0843 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—A round of Egyptian-Spanish military talks was held at the Defense Ministry this morning under the chairmanship of General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, and Spanish Defense Minister Narcis Serra. The talks dealt with promoting military cooperation between Egypt and Spain.

In a statement after the session, Gen. Abu-Talib said the talks centered on cooperation between the two countries as well as the exchange of visits by Spanish warships to international waters surrounding the region [as received], in accordance with international agreements and as part of Egyptian-Spanish cooperation. He added that he and the Spanish officials had discussed the current military cooperation between the two countries in various fields, particularly in training, armament, and exchanging expertise and views in light of the current circumstances in the region. He noted that both countries fully agree in this respect.

For his part, the Spanish defense minister said that the discussion touched on the strict implementation of the UN resolutions regarding the Gulf crisis. He pointed out that Egypt and Spain took several measures to achieve peace in the Gulf and declared their principled position in support of the peaceful procedures, the success of which is yet to be confirmed, which have been adopted by several parties in the world.

Concluding his statement, the Spanish minister praised bilateral cooperation and called for stepping it up. He added that he had invited Gen. Abu-Talib to visit Spain to continue discussing topics of common interest.

Attending the talks for the Egyptians were Navy Commander Rear Admiral Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq; Major Generals Salah Halabi and Husni Sulayman, assistants to the defense minister; and Major General Hitler al-Tantawi, defense ministry secretary general. Members of the delegation accompanying the Spanish minister during his visit to Egypt and Eudaldo Mirapeix y Martinez, Spanish ambassador in Cairo, attended the talks for Spain. [passage omitted]

Ghali Leaves for OAU Special Session in Uganda

NC0709162990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Uganda this afternoon to take part in the OAU committee's special session on South Africa, slated to begin tomorrow.

In a departure statement to the radio correspondent, Dr. Ghali said he will also participate in the talks on ways to resolve the Mauritanian-Senegalese conflict. Dr. Ghali added that he will convey a message from President Mubarak to the Ugandan President on the latest developments in the ongoing war in Liberia.

Returns, Makes Statement

NC0909190690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this evening from Uganda, where he attended meetings of OAU's committee of heads of African states and governments entrusted with following up of the situation in southern Africa.

He stated that President Mubarak asked him to attend these meetings, which discussed developments in southern Africa and solutions to the differences between African liberation movements.

He said that the committee in charge of solving the Senegalese-Mauritanian dispute held a meeting today. After reviewing the situation, he added, it was agreed to dispatch a committee comprising Egypt, Uganda, and Togo to both countries next week to hold further talks to settle the differences between them.

He disclosed that he also conveyed a message from President Mubarak to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, current chairman of the OAU, on the situation in Liberia.

Iraqi Envoy on Reasons for Halt to Transfers

JN1009193090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi Embassay spokesman has explained that the suspension of Egyptian workers' remittances was not an act of choice, but the consequence of the freezing by the United States and its allies of Iraq's funds abroad, which must therefore, be held responsible for the results.

Reacting to reports published by certain hostile circles, the spokesman said Iraq is eager to find a way for the remittances to get through.

Iraq, he said, has not reneged on a commitment it made early this year to transfer a monthly $45 million to Egypt to cover these remittances, but was foiled by the circumstances created by the U.S.-led coalition of forces hostile to Iraq.

Jordanian Envoy Asked To Explain Request Denial

JN0709163190 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry summoned Nabih Nimr, the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, and asked him to explain why his government rejected Egypt's request to install radio communications systems at al-Ruwayshid and the Egyptian Embassy in Amman to be linked up with the operations center in Cairo which is attending to the needs of the returnees.

The ambassador said his country's authorities are ready to provide a patrol car in al-Ruwayshid whose radio can be used to relay messages the Egyptians wish to convey to their consulate in al-'Aqabah. Jordanian authorities, he adds, believe there is no need for the presence of a communications system.

Transport Minister on Returning Nationals

NC1009193590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, stated that the Health Ministry has provided the Egyptian medical team in Jordan with a new group of doctors, in addition to medical equipment.

He added that 3,100 Egyptian nationals arrived at Nuwaybi' port from al-'Aqabah on board Egyptian ferries yesterday. Another group of 810 Egyptians arrived from al-'Aqabah yesterday on board the Saudi ship al-Fahd. A third group of 2,080 Egyptians arrived on Saudi, Libyan, Belgian, and Gulf flights.

More Return Through Jordan

NC1109093290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 10 Sep (MENA)—The number of Egyptians who left Jordan for Egypt today reached 1,172. Of these, 420 arrived via Amman civil airport and the rest via the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah.

Egyptian embassy sources in Jordan stated that 1,295 Egyptian nationals arrived at the al-Ruwayshid pass on the Iraqi-Jordanian border today and that they will leave for Amman and al-'Aqabah later in preparation for transportation to the homeland. [passage omitted]

EgyptAir To Transport Asians Stranded in Jordan

NC1009155490 Cairo MENA in English 1304 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sep 10 (MENA)—The EC office here requested the renewal of the contract between Egypt Air and the EC for transporting the Asians who arrived in Jordan over the last few days after being forced to leave by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Head of Egypt Air trade sector Mamduh 'Abd-al-Qadir said that according to the renewal of the contract, Egypt Air will run 14 flights for transporting those Asians to their countries. Egypt Air previously ran 18 flights to transport Bangladeshis from Amman to Dhaka.

Columnist Terms Baker's Proposal 'Folly'

JN1109095590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Sep 90 p 6

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Test Balloons"]

[Text] The U.S. policy would be committing a major folly if it considered U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal to create a new regional security order in the Middle East after the Gulf crisis has ended. And the Arab countries would be making even a greater and more serious folly if they accepted the proposal.

For the first time, Baker has unveiled some of the ideas that, most likely, have been discussed and are still being discussed thoroughly by the experts and study centers of the U.S. Administration and the Pentagon. Testifying before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Baker disclosed some of the intentions and inclinations of the U.S. policy in the Gulf, and hinted without going into details that as part of a new regional security structure, the U.S. forces may stay in the region even after the Gulf crisis has ended.

The ideas emerged as test balloons during the Congressional debate when Baker was asked about the position of the U.S. Administration if the economic sanctions succeed in forcing Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally. He was asked whether the United States and the world community will be satisfied and accept that Iraq continue to produce chemical and nuclear weapons.

Baker replied that the elimination of these weapons from the Iraqi military arsinal is vital and important, and that the idea of creating a security arrangement to ensure stability in the region and deter any regime in the present and future from using or thinking of using these weapons must be discussed with others (he means the Arab countries).

Naturally, such designs are the logical result of an aggression by an Arab country against another. The aggression provides an appropriate opportunity tempting some Arab countries to join a security structure led and directed by the United States, not an Arab security order defending Arab interests in the first place.

Since the Gulf crisis erupted, justifiable questions have been raised as to whether the U.S. buildup in the region aimed at defending the principle of inadmissibility of aggression or was part of a wicked scheme to weaken the Arabs and control their oil.

The renowned U.S. expert William Quant referred to these fears and told AL-MUSAWWAR that Washington needs to remove them and show interest in the other Arab issues, such as the Palestine question and the issues of human rights.

We agree with this, and believe that the Egyptian initiative calling for the elimination of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons from the entire Middle East region is the starting point for any new regional security order.

Mubarak Urged To Expel Palestinians, Ban 'Arafat

JN0909183090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 90 p 6

[Letter addressed to President Husni Mubarak from reader Taha Husayn al-Karuri published in Ibrahim al-Wardani's "Rockets" column]

[Text] Through our favorite column, "Rockets," I address this call to the faithful president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Husni Mubarak:

For how long will great, glorious Egypt put up with the insults from the parasites of certain Arab countries which Egypt has always supported with money, material aid, and manpower? For the sake of the Palestine question, Egypt has given the best of its young men, but has always been met with ingratitude and disavowal.

What Yasir 'Arafat did at the recent emergency summit should make us reconsider a thousand times our support to the Palestinians, who supported Iraq's unjust aggression and then transferred 40,000 Palestinians from the Arab states to stand by Iraq. Where were these people when the children of the stones were staging their resistance? They were certainly enjoying the blessings of the oil-producing Arab states. They definitely did not want any solution to the Palestine question.

And why should Egypt put up with all this? Why do not we just wash our hands of Palestine? And, why do not we immediately expel the Palestinians from Egypt? Why should we forgive them every time? Our forgiveness has encouraged them to insult and make a mockery of us when they are in our own country, so one can imagine what it is like abroad.

We are waiting for a strong, swift initiative from Mubarak to expel every Palestinian from Egypt and to prevent Yasir 'Arafat from entering Egypt, because we hate his face and presence in it.

[signed] The son of Egypt and Aswan, Taha Husayn al-Karuri.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly Promises Saddam Aid

NC1109093390 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 10 Sep 90 p 12

[Text] AL-SHIRA' has learned from Libyan sources in Cairo that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has sent an urgent message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn through PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The message deals with the possibility of sending advanced military arms and equipment to the Iraqi forces in the event a war breaks out with the U.S. and foreign forces in the region. The message also deals with sending urgent financial assistance and food aid to the Iraqi people in the wake of the blockade imposed by the United Nations and other foreign countries. AL-SHIRA' has learned that Palestinian President 'Arafat has not been able to deliver the message for reasons that are not yet clear.

Morocco

Egypt's Ghali Comments on Crisis, Regional Ties

PM1009144590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 2

[Report by Talhah Jibril: "Dr. Butrus Ghali Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Egypt Made Contacts With Iraq After Summit, But Diplomatic Efforts Reached Impasse"]

[Excerpts] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that he has no details about Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi's resignation. But he pointed out that this is not the first time an Arab League secretary-general has resigned. Mahmud Riyad, 'Abd-al-Khaliq Hassunah, and 'Abd-al-Rahman also resigned in the past, but the Arab League continued its work.

Butrus Ghali, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Rabat, expressed his hope that the resignation would not obstruct the League's work, and that the Arab states would hasten to elect a secretary general so the League can continue its work.

Asked whether Egypt will nominate an Egyptian for the post, Butrus Ghali said: "I have no information about this subject."

The Egyptian official spoke about the diplomatic efforts being exerted to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis. The chances of a political settlement, he said, are now meager and limited. And diplomatic endeavors have reached an impasse. He pointed out that Egypt had made bilateral contacts with Iraq, even after the Cairo summit, but these contacts had failed to persuade Baghdad to withdraw from Kuwait.

On the direction of the crisis, he said that it is difficult at the moment to talk about a direction, because the decision will be taken at an international level and through bilateral contacts between the two superpowers.

He said that the important thing is the extent to which diplomatic endeavors will succeed in persuading the Iraqi leadership. Iraq's and the Arab nation's interests lie in the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait. Never since World War II has a state lost its independence in such an irrational and illogical way. This is why it is difficult to predict which way the crisis will go, even though all seek a peaceful settlement. [passage omitted]

On his meeting with Moroccan King Hassan II, Butrus Ghali said that open and friendly talks were held. They lasted over two hours. The talks dealt with the importance of coordination between Egyptian diplomacy and Moroccan diplomacy in the various fields. He said that he conveyed President Husni Mubarak's overview of the crisis. He also listened to the Moroccan monarch's views on the same subject. He denied that the the question of convening an extraordinary summit in Morocco to resolve the crisis was broached. But he said that Egypt welcomes any initiative to secure a peaceful settlement. Meanwhile, Butrus Ghali denied that Egypt has received any U.S. financial aid to compensate for the negative effects of the crisis on the Egyptian economy. He said that so far the matter is confined to some promises. [passage omitted]

On the present status of the Arab Cooperation Council, comprising Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Yemen, Butrus Ghali said that the council is actually frozen but, if the crisis is surmounted, it can then be reactivated.

Butrus Ghali did not rule out the possibility of dispatching more Egyptian forces to the Gulf. He emphasized that these forces' presence in the region has more of a political than military meaning, because their presence is a confirmation of Egypt's solidarity with the Gulf states.

On the Gulf crisis' effects on Egyptian-Sudanese relations as a result of the two countries' differing views over the crisis, Butrus Ghali confirmed the existence of differences between the two countries but said that the differences are not confined to the Gulf crisis and include ways of resolving the south Sudan problem. He added that "Egyptian-Sudanese relations are going through states of critical development and stages of reconciliation, and we hope that common denominators will predominate over political crises, which reflect negatively on the two countries' relations."

Butrus Ghali played down the reports talking about the existence of Iraqi weapons and forces in Sudan. He said: "I believe they are untrue." [passage omitted]

At another level, Butrus Ghali revealed that contacts are being pursued between the Egyptian Government and the Red Cross to secure the release of the Egyptian POW's in Iran.

Sudan

Al-Bashir To Further Gulf Region Initiative

EA1009165090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers, has reiterated that Sudan is continuing with the initiative presented to a number of Arab presidents that involves Yemen, Libya, Tunis, Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, and the PLO. His excellency said that the next step will be in the Gulf region. He pointed out that Sudan regarded its initiative as an Arab initiative offered for discussion and aimed at reaching an accepted solution agreeable to all sides.

On the economic effects of the Gulf crisis on various countries, including Sudan, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said that Sudan was assessing the extent of the economic effects of the Gulf crisis and that he might address the United Nations on Sudan's receiving compensation for damages.

SPLA Offers Army Convoys Safe Passage to Juba

EA1109083290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] underground cell commander in Juba, Captain Din Hajar, has sent an urgent message to the Bright Star Campaign commander conveying the request of innocent soldiers of al-Bashir's so-called Abtal Juba [Juba heroes], Ba's al-Hadid [iron fortitude] and Harb al-Suqur [war of the hawks] convoys now stranded and besieged between Juba and Lanya. The convoy soldiers have asked the Bright Star Campaign commander to allow them to go back to Juba without being attacked.

With this announcement, the Bright Star Campaign commander has been authorized by the leadership to allow the besieged and belligerent convoy to withdraw to Juba in peace without being attacked. The only condition is that they do not touch the properties of the local population on the way, refrain from harassing the population, and not provoke the SPLA while on the move as of 1500 hours today, 10 September 1990. The convoy soldiers who wish to return to Juba can do so and the SPLA will not attack them.

Those who choose to join the SPLA are free to do so, and they will be incorporated into the Bright Star Campaign forces in the area. The SPLA, as is known to all soldiers of al-Bashir's army, spares the lives of POW's and treats them humanely without distinction from SPLA soldiers, as they are innocent and caught up in a war of the National Islamic Front [NIF] in which they do not believe. The SPLA welcomes these soldiers into its ranks as it has done before, the soldiers of these convoys, therefore, having nothing to fear. [sentence as heard] Rather than suffer unnecessarily in a hostile environment, you either go back to Juba, since the SPLA will not attack you, or simply come over and join the SPLA, which is your real army. This is where your heart belongs. It is only your pocket that belongs to al-Bashir. Choose now, today.

Even Colonel Pascuali, who was deceived and left in Kagwada and told that the convoy will come back to find him there, is also given free passage to follow the convoy back to Juba. We assure Col. Pascuali that no convoy is coming back to him. He has simply been deceived by people who want to protect themselves by later putting the blame of the disaster on him. Col. Pascuali, you must start to think for yourself. You choose either to follow the convoy to Juba and [we] will not attack, or you join us and we will warmly welcome you as a patriot.

All those who wish to abandon al-Bashir's NIF-oriented army are to report themselves first to the local chiefs in the area, who will then report them to the SPLA. This is to avoid unnecessary clashes and unnecessary loss of lives on the part of those who wish to join the SPLA.

Meanwhile, Captain Din Hajar has sent a list of 87 wounded soldiers of the enemy Abtal Juba convoy. Radio SPLA here reads these names for the information of the families and friends. We know that al-Bashir's NIF-oriented army does not inform the families of the killed in action and wounded in action, to hide the truth and paint the false picture that the NIF government is winning the war. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Islamic Fundamentalist Demonstration Broken Up

NC1109093790 Paris AFP in English 0906 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, Sept 11 (AFP)—Police used teargas to break up a demonstration by some 100 young Islamic fundamentalists here Tuesday [11 September] morning who were protesting the killing of a young man by a police bullet Friday.

Residents said the demonstrators started to charge police, who launched teargas grenades for 20 minutes to disperse them.

Some protestors threw stones, which hit policemen stationed outside the French Embassy though the sources said the building was not the target of the attack.

The demonstrators carried pictures of Attayeb Alkhammasi, a 21-year-old man shot dead by police outside a mosque in the Ibn Khaldoun district of Tunis as he was distributing religious tracts after the Friday prayer service.

The shooting has sparked smaller demonstrations Monday night, and some 30 Islamic fundamantalists have been questioned, according to a spokesman for the Muslim fundamentalist Annahda movement which is tolerated but not official.

Mr. Alkhammasi was not a member of the group.

The interior ministry has issued a statement saying the victim was killed by a stray bullet as police tried to disperse a group of youths attacking their car.

Karoui Receives Syrian Industry Minister

JN1109101790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Sep (SANA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hamid Karoui received Syrian Industry Minister Antoine Jubran here today. Mohammed Ghannouchi, minister of economy and finance, attended the meeting.

Jubran delivered a message to Karoui from Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi in which the latter voiced Syria's desire to continue bilateral cooperation, which is viewed as one of the most important factors in the march of joint Arab action and a step on the road to Arab coordination and integration. Karoui asked him to deliver a similar message to Prime Minister al-Zu'bi affirming Tunisia's sincere desire to pursue cooperation between the two countries.

In his letter, Karoui affirmed his country's desire that the higher commitee between the two countries hold its meeting as scheduled to pursue discussion of joint issues.

The Syrian side under Jubran and the Tunisian side under Ghannouchi held a meeting today. Discussions dealt with the implementation of the various agreements between the two countries. Other agreements in the industrial field were also concluded during this meeting.

Bahrain

Paper Alleges Iraqi Plan To Divide Saudi Arabia

NC1109080890 Paris AFP in English 0734 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, Sept 11 (AFP)—Iraq, Yemen and Jordan planned to take advantage of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to divide up neighboring Saudi Arabia, the Bahraini newspaper Al-Khalij charged here Tuesday.

The paper, citing diplomatic sources in London, said the rapid deployment of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia had foiled the plan.

Once entrenched in Kuwait, Iraqi troops were to move into eastern Saudi Arabia and seize control of oil wells there.

At the same time, according to the paper, Yemeni forces would take over three regions in southwestern Saudi Arabia, taking advantage of their superiority in tanks.

But the Yemeni operation would have been lacking air cover, which explains why Iraqi President Saddam Husayn shortly before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2 offered Yemen 15 MiG-23 combat planes, the paper claimed.

It said Jordan would have been responsible for taking control of the Hijaz region, where the Islamic holy cities of Mecca and al-Madinah are located. The paper recalled that Jordan placed its army and air force on alert after the Iraqi invasion.

Amir Receives Kuwaiti Deputy Chief of Staff

NC1009200590 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 10 Sep (WAKH)—H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning the Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff [name indistinct] and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments and the brotherly relations between Bahrain and Kuwait. The audience was attended by the Assistant Interior Undersecretary for Immigration and Passports Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah and Chief of Staff of the Bahraini Defence Force Brigadier [name indistinct] Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah.

Libya's Al-Kharrubi Arrives With Message

NC1009174590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 10 Sep (WAKH)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and inspector general of the Libyan armed forces, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Manama from the Sultanate of Oman this evening. Al-Kharrubi's visit is part of a tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Col. al-Kharrubi is carrying a message to Bahrani Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Housing Minister Shaykh Khalid Ibn-'Abdallah Al Khalifah received the Libyan official.

Italian Official Confers With Defense Minister

NC1009200690 Manama WAKH in English 1503 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 10 Sep (WAKH)—Bahraini Defense Minister and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Force Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Khalifah met here today with Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Claudio Lenoci and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Manama.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations and the current developments in the Gulf arena.

The meeting was attended by the Italian ambassador to the UAE.

Meets With Amir

NC1009201090 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Manama, 10 Sep (WAKH)—H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning Italian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Claudio Lenoci. [passage omitted]

WAKH quoted the Italian official as saying that he has conveyed a written message from Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti dealing with the current situation [words indistinct]. The message also confirms solidarity and full understanding of the situation in the Gulf, as well as identical views between the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) over the implementation of the UN resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal.

The Italian deputy foreign minister added that he discussed current efforts to solve the Gulf crisis and the outcome of the Helsinki meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Lenoci also said he held talks with the foreign minister on the EEC efforts to implement the UN-imposed sanctions on Iraq, as well as the situation in the region.

Kuwait

Iraqi Troops Kill 15 'in Cold Blood' in City

LD1009214490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2116 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Sep (SPA)—Iraqi invasion troops last Saturday (8 September) perpetrated a vile bloody massacre in the courtyard of a house in Kuwait, which claimed the lives of 15 unarmed civilians. This occured when Iraqi soldiers opened fire with their automatic weapons without any reason and killed those innocent citizens in cold blood.

KUNA, which reported the news, pointed out that the Iraqi invasion troops have demolished at least 25 houses in the residential district of al-Rawdah, a suburb of Kuwait City. It said that the Iraqi occupation forces have not given any reason for the demolition operation, in which they used tanks and explosives, in a way similar to that adopted by the Israelis in the occupied Palestinian territories, if not more vile.

'Witnesses' Say Public Order Breaking Down

NC1109071090 Paris AFP in English 0642 GMT 11 Sep 90

[By Jean-Pierre Perrin]

[Text] Manama, Sept 11 (AFP)—Public order is breaking down in Kuwait City, where Iraqi occupation troops are looting ahead of a feared U.S. attack, witnesses recently in the emirate have said.

Serving alongside an estimated 140,000 regular army troops are militiamen, drawn from Iraq and other Arab countries.

Just after the August 2 invasion, according to a Kuwaiti businessman, "the army controlled the capital before being replaced by militias. But today both the army and the militia are occupying Kuwait City."

Armored vehicles are stationed outside all police stations, with troops and tanks dug in along the corniche, apparently fearing an amphibious landing by U.S. forces in the Gulf.

Many of those who have recently fled say the capital city appears ungoverned while occupation authorities pillage public property.

"The Iraqis have tried to burn down some of the ministry buildings, as if they wanted to wipe out any trace of the Kuwaiti state," said one banker.

Others have said the Iraqi army in certain quarters has seized industrial equipment and torn up lamp posts and traffic lights, suggesting that troops wanted to raze the city before being forced to leave.

"There are contradictions everywhere," noted the banker. "It's as if each district were governed by an officer acting on his own."

Iraqi authorities, in another confusing measure, are preventing Kuwaitis—who are now Iraqi citizens—from leaving. But at the same time they have ruled that those who left the country after August 23 cannot return, apart from university students.

For the moment it is difficult to ascertain the morale of Iraqi troops stationed in Kuwait. Several desertions have been reported and an officer was publicly hanged three weeks ago on charges of looting.

Foreigners who while making their escape encountered troops deployed in the desert said soldiers did not receive vital supplies each day and sometimes allowed themselves to be influenced by offers of cold water and cigarettes.

But regular units have been strengthened by contingents of "bidoun," a slang term meaning "without" and referring to down-and- out residents of Kuwait who had been denied passports by the ousted al-Sabah family because of their Iraqi or Iranian origins.

"It's usually the Iraqi-born bidoun who collaborate," said one witness.

Many of the Palestinians living in the emirate are also reported to have aligned themselves with Iraq. "I saw militias made up solely of Palestinians," recalled the banker.

But he added: "Not all the Palestinians are collaborators. Some of them have met us in the mosques to tell us they too condemn the Iraqi invasion."

Water, Other Supplies Scarce at Swiss Embassy

LD0709160990 Bern International Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] The Swiss Foreign Ministry says the situation at the Swiss embassy in Kuwait is giving cause for concern as water and other provisions are beginning to run out. The head of the ministry's Gulf Crisis Unit, Hans Rudolf Hoffmann, told a news conference that Switzerland had not ruled out the possibility of theSwiss charge d'affaires and his assistant leaving the embassy for Baghdad. However, he said Switzerland would await the position of the European Community before taking any decision on the issue. Mr. Hoffmann said that any move to evacuate the Kuwait embassy did not mean that it would be closed or signify recognition of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

Minister Outlines Plan for Military Training Camps

NC1109102090 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 11 (AFP)—Kuwait's Saudi-based government-in-exile plans to set up military training camps to prepare Kuwaitis for resistance against

Iraqi troops, an official of the occupied emirate said in remarks published Tuesday.

Housing Minister Yahya al-Samayt told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Emirates News that Kuwaiti embassies abroad had been asked to submit detailed information on the numbers of Kuwaiti citizens in each country.

"This will define the location and manpower of the camps," he said in an interview in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. al-Samayt said the project would be implemented in two phases, coordinated by the Kuwaiti cabinet and military command, but he provided no further details.

Every Kuwaiti citizen would be eligible to join the camps, which he said were planned in response to the readiness to defend their country shown by Kuwaitis he met during a Gulf tour.

"These citizens could have the opportunity to return to Kuwait soon to join the resistance forces," he added.

'Free Kuwait Committee' Set Up in London

PM1009152990 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Free Kuwait Committee Holds Press Conference"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] London, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—The recently formed Free Kuwait Committee has held a press conference here to announce its plan and working programs on free popular action to restore the State of Kuwait's sovereignty, affirm its legitimacy, and confront the Iraqi aggression scheme on all axes.

Dr. Muhammad al-Rumayhi announced at the beginning of the conference that the committee was formed by Kuwaiti citizens to raise the Kuwaiti people's voice, express their struggle, and confirm their independent identity and rejection of the occupier's will.

Dr. Ja'far al-Bahbahani and Mr. Nasir al-Marri spoke at the conference. After the speeches announcing the birth of the Kuwaiti popular committee, reporters asked questions on Kuwaiti resistance against the Iraqi occupation forces.

The Free Kuwait Committee emphasized that the Kuwaiti resistance is launching its operations against the occupation troops and positions inside Kuwait.

The Free Kuwait Committee pointed out that its programs and activities concern one task—participating both positively and actively in exposing the occupation, recording its violations, informing Arab and world public opinion of the invading forces' practices in Kuwait, and affirming that there is no other solution to the present crisis except withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwaiti territory.

Minister Urges Military Action To Remove Iraq

NC1009091290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0833 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Sep (MENA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad has stressed that the economic blockade against the Iraqi regime will take a long time to be effective and that military action is the decisive and effective procedure to get Iraq out of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti minister said that all the Kuwaiti people are resisting the invasion in various ways and they have proved to the entire world that they are capable of challenging the aggresson.

In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD paper (?today) carried by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, the Kuwaiti minister pointed out that the Kuwaiti Government had discussed the issue of resistance and that training camps will be set up for Kuwaitis who have no military training. He added that, at first, the emphasis will be on training courses to prepare the necessary personnel.

Foreign Minister on Financial Assistance

NC0509083990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 4 Sep (WAKH)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said Monday that Kuwait is willing to extend financial assistance in its capacity as part of the world and will not hesitate to do so if it is asked.

In remarks to reporters accompanying British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd carried by KUNA Monday night, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said Kuwaiti and British views completely agree with regard to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad offered thanks to the British Government and people and to Margaret Thatcher on their principled and clear stand on the invasion of Kuwait.

He said that the resignation of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi must not be linked to the status of the Arab League, which has been operating for many years and whose activity will not be affected by the resignation.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad voiced hope that the coming summit meeting between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush will succeed for the sake of peace and justice in the entire world, not merely Kuwait.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd then said: "We are going through a unique situation marked by international unanimity. This unanimity will lead to full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the sanctions, which will bear fruit with time."

He added that a convoy of British hostages including women and children had left Kuwait for Baghdad. He noted that the British Embassy is following up this matter.

He concluded his statement by saying: "I express my gratitude and appreciation to Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, particularly as our views are identical on the need for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government."

Oman

Sultan Qabus Chairs Cabinet Meeting 10 Sep

NC1009192490 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id chaired a cabinet meeting this evening. During this meeting, his majesty reviewed the current situation in the area, affirming the Sultanate's declared positions on the Gulf crisis. He noted that any opportunity which provides for a political solution of the crisis will help restore solidarity among the Arab family within a framework of love and brotherhood and unity of goal and fate.

His majesty praised the efforts being made by the various countries of the world to maintain world security and stability. He also praised the government's efforts to maintain economic stability in the country and avoid any negative effects resulting from the continuation of tension in the area.

At the end of the meeting, his majesty the sultan gave his valuable advice to their highnesses and excellencies the members of the cabinet to work assidiously in order to provide the suitable conditions for the citizen to play his effective role in society and participate in the achievement of the comprehensive development goals in the country.

Libyan Official Arrives in Oman 10 Sep

NC1009110990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Salalah, 10 Sep (WAKH)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of Libya's Revolution Command Council and inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived here at noon today on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman that will last for a few days. The OMANI NEWS AGENCY reported that Colonel al-Kharrubi is carrying a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id of Oman from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the current [words indistinct] and the events in the Gulf.

Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

NC1009174190 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Salalah, 10 Sep (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was delivered by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Libyan Revolution Command Council member and inspector general of the Libyan armed forces, during a meeting with Sultan Qabus today.

Present at the meeting was Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah.

Saudi Arabia

Government Clarifies Stance on Libyan Gulf Plan

LD1009094390 Riyadh SPA Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, servant of the two holy mosques, corrected a REUTER report carried on Saturday night—8 September 1990—a report which was subsequently quoted by Tehran Radio in Persian in its Sunday morning newscast. King Fahd says he welcomes a Libyan plan which stipulates an Iraqi withdrawal from most of Kuwait in exchange for keeping a strategic island and an oil field.

An authoritative source told SPA the following today: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has as a matter of course been informed of Libya's plan by Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi. It has promised to study it and nothing more. Hence this clarification is warranted."

Prince Bandar Holds News Conference 7 Sep

LD0809014590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi ambassador to the United States, has reiterated the position of the Kingdom, calling on the Baghdad regime to withdraw from Kuwait and the return of Kuwait's legitimate government and population.

At a news conference held in Jeddah last night, his highness said: The problems in the Arab Gulf is Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Answering a question on convening an international peace conference, his highness said: When withdrawal from Kuwait is concluded, we would be willing to discuss holding an international peace conference—a matter that we have always supported for resolving the Palestinian question.

His highness spoke about the meeting he had with U.S. President George Bush, saying: The meeting dealt with the situation in the region, ways of carrying out the resolutions of the United Nations, and also how to maintain the international consensus.

Answering a question on the summit next Sunday between President George Bush of the United States and President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, his highness said: We hope for everything good, and for an international trend and consensus supporting the United Nations resolutions.

His highness described this consensus as important, and expressed his hope that the objectives defined by the UN resolutions be achieved: in other words the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy there.

In reply to a question, his highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz reaffirmed Saudi support for the UN Security Council resolutions. He said: When the UN Security Council resolutions are implemented, the situation will be restored to what it was before.

About what was reported concerning the Saudi participation in shouldering some of the expenses of the forces in the region, his highness said: Saudi Arabia will be as positive as possible in supporting its friends and Arab brothers.

Replying to a question on the whether the Kingdom expects the UN Security Council to agree to attack Iraq, his highness said: "If the Kingdom has an opinion, it will announce it officially," pointing out, however, that he had no details on the matter.

Concerning the Kingdom's self-defense, his highness said: "As far as self-defense is concerned, Saudi forces will take part in their own defense," pointing out that self-defense will not be under any specified command procedures. However, if the Kingdom is transgressed upon, it will vehemently defend itself, as both the custodian of the two holy mosques and the his crown prince, the second deputy prime minister, have announced.

Replying to a question on how his highness would visualize a solution to the problem, at a time when Iraq has yet to make a step toward withdrawing, his highness said: This question is a good one, as a number of Arab bretheren have been urging Arab solutions. The problem is, however, not that we do not want an Arab solution: the problem is the fact that those who want Arab solutions must take a stance regarding President Saddam Husayn, because it was he who rejected Arab solutions, and it was not the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or Kuwait.

His highness expressed in this respect his regrets that Arab media has not focused on the fact that it is President Saddam Husayn who has rejected Arab solutions, whether at the Arab League's recent ministerial conference or the Arab summit conference.

His highness added: "We would like here to ask the Arab bretheren who are urging an Arab solution one question: Why did you not attend the recent Arab League foreign ministerial meeting? If you are urging an Arab solution, then there is an Arab framework, which is the Arab League. Therefore, why would you not come along with us to examine the matter?" His highness stressed that Saddam Husayn's acts are not encouraging for us, for Arab mediators, or for the UN Secretary General.

His highness expressed, at the end of his replies to a question put forward by MAP, the Kingdom's, the government's, and the people's appreciation for the stances adopted by His Majesty King Hassan II, the courageous and noble monarch of the Kingdom of the Morocco, toward his brothers in Kuwait and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His highness pointed out what James Baker said publicly: that people in the region should be helped to help themselves.

His highness further said: Any reasonable arrangements that are made would be helpful, and it would be wise to use them. We do indeed have some regional arrangements, like the Gulf Cooperation Council and other things, and as the senator put it in his general testimony, he did not intend to speak about land, air, or naval forces staying, but rather about any cohesive or separate unit. [sentence as received]

His highness further said: I do not want you to exaggerate in speaking about content; surely all this is a result of the crisis—but no one has come up with ideas in this domain.

Answering a question over whether the U.S. forces would stay for a long period in Saudi lands, his highness said: The essence of the forces now in our midst is a result of a specified position and has a cause; if the cause disappears, so would the result. His highness also said that the presence of these forces would continue until the mission is concluded, adding: This applies not only to the U.S. forces but also to all the states that have sent forces.

Answering a question on whether there was a concern on the Saudi side over the presence of these forces, his highness said: This is not true; we are happy about and extremely appreciative of the quick and great response, and I believe that the people are happy about how things are progressing.

Defense Minister Warns Iraq of Saudi 'Power'

PM1109120790 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 5 Sep 90 p 9

[Muhammad al-Jahlan report on address by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general—to "notables, senior officials, intellectuals, and businessmen;" place, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general—has said that what has happened in Kuwait is beyond people's imagination and mental scope in terms of both the principle of aggression and oppression, the bloodshed, rape, destruction of property and public and private installations, and the looting of peaceful homes and stores, whose contents were moved to Iraq by trucks prepared for that purpose before the invasion. His highness added: Disagreement can occur between states and governments as well as between people. But we cannot imagine how a disagreement can develop in a such a tragic and regrettable way as to swallow up a state in hours, making its people homeless and violating peaceful places in a way which we have never heard of before. The saddening thing is that the plunder has been carried out by an Arab state that has obligations of neighborhood and brotherhood toward another Arab state that helped it in its predicament during the war with Iran and generously provided aid to it.

This came in his highness's address to notables, senior officials, intellectuals, and businessmen. [passage omitted]

His highness said: The aggression against Kuwait and the border deployments threatening the Kingdom will not prevent us from adhering to our principles or fulfilling our Gulf commitments. In fact what has happened has strengthened our previous convictions about the need to consolidate military cooperation among our states, so that we will not be taken by surprise and so that the Arab Gulf states will be a deterrent military force whose task is to impose peace and punish recklessness.

He added: What has happened cannot be accepted by any mind, or by any Arab, Islamic, or European charter. And there is no other option for the present crisis except unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. This position or view is not ours alone. We are backed by the Arab and Islamic peoples as well as the peoples of the world as a whole and the government institutions which have dispatched their troops to stand in one trench with the voice of peace, wake the Iraqi regime from its scornful dreams, and put an end to its excesses and recklessness. [passage omitted]

His highness added: The Iraqi regime's deployments on the kingdom's borders do not scare us, but, rather, strengthen us further. And here I must point to an important fact, namely that Iraq has tremendous power, built at the expense of his country's development and the prosperity of his people, who are today suffering great burdens in all sectors. But this does not mean that the Saudi forces cannot confront or deter it. In fact they have military technologies capable of destroying the Iraqi Army. Our forces have complete weapon systems in their ground, air, naval, and air defense sectors. And these are capable of stopping the desecration of our territory and are developing unhurriedly, scientifically, and technologically.

We did not request the Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces because of a weakness in the Saudi forces or the Saudi people, he said. This means a strengthing of and a testimony to peace as well as a deterrent to any aggressor. These states' response to the kingdom's request is evidence of the kingdom's status among them all.

His highness broached the efforts being exerted to end the crisis and said: Since the crisis erupted, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has spared no effort to try to contain it before it worsens. He—God protect him—made extensive efforts, contacts, and consultations. But all endeavors exerted by the kingdom's leadership, the leaders of the Arab and Islamic states, and world leaders were met with intransigence from the Iraqi side, which is rejecting peace and just demands. Then resolutions were issued by the Security Council, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab League, calling for peace. But regrettably the intransigent Iraqi leadership did not accept them.

We will spare no efforts, his highness added, to search for all possible efforts and solutions to return matters to normal and spare Arab blood. But if the Iraqi side insists on its intransigence and commits aggression against the kingdom, Iraq knows well that we have the power, will, and determination capable of deterring it. As for its talk about chemical weapons—which I believe is merely for media consumption and intimidation—if he insists on using them, we are capable of thwarting them before they are launched. But this will force us to use the dangerous weapons in our possession, including missiles which can reach deep into Iraq. We also have means of destruction known to Saddam Husayn himself. We sincerely hope that we will not get to that point, and I still continue to raise the voice of peace. [passage omitted]

King Receives Message From Pakistani President

LD0809175890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 8 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received a message from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan.

The message was conveyed by Mr. Malik Abdulmajid Mohammed Abbas, Pakistani minister of petroleum and natural resources, when the king received him in his office in al-Salam palace today. [passage omitted]

Libya's Kharrubi Departs Jeddah

LD0909102190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0916 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 9 Sep (SPA)—The inspector general of the Libyan armed forces, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, left Jeddah this morning after a visit to Saudi Arabia during which he was received by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Official Delivers Message to King Fahd

LD0409200190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1853 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 4 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a message from President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Tunisian Minister of Justice Chedli Neffati during the audience accorded to him in his office in al-Salam palace today. The audience was attended by the private adviser to King Fadh Ibrahim al-'Anqari and Tunisian Ambassador to the Kingdom Mohamed Jenifane.

Tunisian Minister Chedli Neffati arrived in Jeddah earlier. He was welcomed at Jeddah International Airport by private adviser to the king Ibrahim al'Anqari, a delegate from the royal protocol, and Tunisian Ambassador to the Kingdom Mohamed Jenifane.

Departs 5 Sep

LD0509123890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Tunisian Justice Minister Chedli Neffati left Jeddah this morning after delivering a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, from his excellency the Tunisian president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Discusses Gulf Crisis

NC0209195290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Dubayy, 2 Sep (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Rashid Al Maktum has expressed his hope that a peaceful solution will be reached that will guarantee an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and mark the start of a new era in the region.

In an interview with reporters and correspondents from international news agencies and television networks, the defense minister said that the UAE rejects the use of armed force to solve problems and disputes among states and is opposed to all forms of occupation. He stressed the UAE's rejection of the Iraqi forces' occupation of the fraternal state of Kuwait, regardless of the reasons and justifications for this occupation, an occupation we hope will be ended soon through peaceful methods.

Regarding the foreign military presence in the region and whether he believed in an Arab or an international solution to the current crisis, Shaykh Muhammad expressed his belief that there is still hope that the Arab and international efforts will result in a peaceful solution. He added: The foreign forces which came to the region will depart as soon as the reasons for their coming disappear.

Shaykh Rashid pointed out that there is cooperation between the Arab and Gulf forces and between them and the foreign forces as they are all stationed alongside one other in the Hafr al-Batin area of Saudi Arabia. He expressed the UAE's readiness to send additional forces if necessary. He also expressed his optimism that the Gulf region will again enjoy its past prosperity, security, and peace when this transient crisis ends. He said: This crisis will be solved, God willing, because of the Arab man's faith in God, his love for his homeland, and his abidance by Arab and Islamic traditions, a matter which will speed up the healing of the rift among the brothers and the restoring of matters to normal.

Asked about the official and popular attitude toward the Arab expatriates living in the Gulf who are citizens of states which support or side with Iraq in the current Gulf crisis, the UAE defense minister reaffirmed that the UAE, which opened its doors to the Arab brothers, will remain faithful to Arabism and Islam "and will not abandon its humanitarian principles and code of ethics in its treatment of all those who come to or reside on its good land as long as they work seriously and faithfully and respect the security and safety of our society and the supremacy of our laws. We harbor no evil or bad intention toward anybody because our true Islamic religion and our genuine Arab values and traditions do not permit us to do so."

Concluding his interview with the foreign reporters, the defense minister said: We hope that there will be a quick withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and that the fraternal Kuwaiti people and their legitimate authority will return to their country.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY [WAM] quoted Shaykh Muhammad as saying that the Palestinian question will remain the main issue and primary concern of the Arab nation despite the focus of Arab and world attention on the occupation of Kuwait, which has undoubtedly had an adverse effect on the Palestinian question and the sympathy of the world states and peoples with the Palestinian Arab people.

The defense minister stressed: We as Arabs will not abandon the rights of the Palestinian people in their land and home. We must not forget their just cause. He urged the Arabs and the Muslim and foreign states to continue their efforts to find a solution to the issue of the Palestinian people and put an end to their long ordeal.

Regarding the effect of the current crisis on the UAE's economy, Shaykh Muhammad said: This crisis has undoubtedly affected some economic sectors in the state. However it increased air and sea traffic in the state's airports and ports.

Libya's Kharrubi Arrives in Abu Dhabi

NC0909124090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Sep (WAKH)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived in Abu Dhabi at noon today on a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

While there, Col. al-Kharrubi will hold talks with senior UAE officials on developments in the Gulf region.

Concludes Visit

NC1009091890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Sep (WAKH)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of Libya's Revolutionary Command Council and inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces, left Abu Dhabi this morning after a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] during which he delivered a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He was seen off by Health Minister Hamad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Yemen

Popular Committee Marches to Soviet Embassy

JN1109085090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] The Higher Popular Committee for Defending Iraq and the Arab Nation organized a march which included many figures from societies, parties, and popular organizations, and members of the Council of Representatives led by Field Marshal 'Abdallah al-Sallal, former president of the republic, and struggler Judge 'Abd-al-Salam Sabra.

The march proceeded from the Ministry of Information to the Soviet Embassy where they were received by Soviet Ambassador Veniamin Popov and the Embassy staff. Field Marshal al-Sallal and the Soviet ambassador exchanged a few words. The Soviet ambassador affirmed that his country is seeking to resolve the crisis through peaceful and diplomatic means and that it is exerting intense efforts to prevent any explosion in the region.

On his part, Field Marshal al-Sallal stressed that the Soviet Union must not allow the United States to act unilaterally in the affairs of the Arab region. The Arabs see the Soviet Union as their true friend; therefore, it should translate this friendship into action by helping to resolve the crisis peacefully and by helping the Arabs to solve their problems themselves.

Field Marshal al-Sallal then delivered a message from the Higher Popular Committee for Defending Iraq and the Arab Nation to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev which contained the viewpoint of the Yemeni people—parties, organizations, bodies, notables, ulemas, and intellectuals—and which affirmed that our Yemeni people are used to having the Soviet Union as a friend of the Arabs and that it must translate this friendship into action through constructive stands to support Arab causes. They also realize that the Soviet Union has great ability to put an end to the U.S. and western illegitimate blackmail of Arab resources and threats through the use of siege, steel, and fire with any Arab party that seeks to put an end to this illegitimate course.

A message was handed to the ambassador addressed to President Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush which expressed the hopes of our Yemeni people that the leaders of the two superpowers will resort to logic and sanity while discussing the Gulf crisis. They noted that any explosion would not only harm Iraq's interests, but would directly threaten humanity in general. Therefore, they must set practical grounds by moving toward the channels of peace and peace alone, and blocking the way before those beating the drums of war so as to avert the horrors and dangers of war from the region and the world.

In another development, the Higher Popular Committee for Defending Iraq and the Arab Nation resumed its meetings today under Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi, head of the Popular Committee. It discussed numerous measures in light of the new developments in the region and the convening of the Helsinki summit. The Committee issued the following circular.

In light of the unprecedented and sensitive historic moments the Arab and Islamic nation is going through, coinciding with the Helsinki summit between the Soviet Union and the United States, and within the framework of the activities of the Higher Popular Committee for Defending Iraq and the Arab Nation, the Committee has decided to call the masses of our people from all sectors to participate in a peaceful popular march on the morning of Sunday, 9 September 1990. The march will proceed from al-Tahrir Square in the capital Sanaa at 0900 in solidarity with fraternal Iraq which is suffering from a comprehensive economic siege and to show rejection of foreign military presence in our waters and on our land in the Gulf and peninsula.

Minister Denies Rumors on Egyptian Teachers

JN0709105390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Information Minister brother Muhammad Ahmad Jurhum says that rumors that Egyptian teachers were attacked in a northern area of Yemen and that Egyptian publications had been banned from entering Yemen were totally groundless.

The information minister told a REUTER correspondent in Sanaa that these rumors, which are being circulated by irresponsible quarters, seek to create a spirit of animosity and divisiveness among fraternal Arab peoples. He went on to say that these rumors are without foundation. It is to be recalled that the number of teachers at all levels in Yemen is more than 20,000.

Bush Envoy Arrives for Consultations on Crisis

JN0809151890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] This evening, (Edward Genny), an envoy of U.S. President George Bush to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential

Council, arrived in Sanaa on a visit to our country. He will hold consultations on the Gulf crisis. In a statement to SABA', the U.S. envoy said he is glad to be visiting our country to discuss regional developments in the interest of restoring peace and stability.

Meets With Salih

JN0809152790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received at his office this morning [name indistinct], envoy of U.S. President George Bush. They reviewed bilateral relations.

They also discussed developments in the Gulf and peninsula regions, and the U.S. envoy briefed the brother president on the U.S. position regarding these events. The brother president entrusted the U.S. envoy with the task of conveying a message to President Bush which contained the Yemeni viewpoint regarding these developments. The viewpoint is based on the need to resolve the crisis peacefully and avoid resorting to the military option because of its destructive consequences to the region and to world peace. The brother president asserted that Yemen is making every effort to cooperate with its brothers and friends to find the appropriate peaceful solution to this crisis that would guarantee peace and stability for the region.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry 'Ali Ahmad al-Khadr, and U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa Charles Dunbar.

Envoys Receive Salih Messages to Bush, Gorbachev

JN0709152690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani this evening received separately U.S. Ambassador Charles Dunbar and USSR Ambassador Veniamin Popov. [names and titles as heard] He handed each of them a message from Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The two messages deal with ties between our country and the two countries. They also address Arab as well as international developments.

Officers Accused of Assassination Plot Executed

LD0909064190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0030 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Radio Kuwait said today that yesterday morning Iraq executed three officers of the Iraqi Presidential Guard accused of plotting to assassinate Saddam Husayn.

The radio pointed out that the three officers are Captain Muhsin Karam, Captain 'Ali Ahmad Hasan, and Lieutenant Najm Hamid.

Riyadh Reports Anti-Saddam Leaflets in Baghdad

LD0709204790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Leaflets distributed today in Baghdad called on the Iraqi people to rebel against Saddam Husayn's regime. The leaflets, which were signed by the alliance of the Iraqi opposition and widely distributed, pointed out that all sectors of the Iraqi people do not want Saddam Husayn to continue and are waiting for the first spark.

The leaflets of the alliance of the Iraqi opposition also state that operations will be carried out within days and will be the beginning of the revolution against tyranny.

The leaflets, the contents of which were broadcast by Kuwait radio and dated 1 September, point out that Saddam has left Baghdad since the invasion of Kuwait and has severed all his contacts with the capital except through hand-delivered mail and the directives which he sends to his assistants in Baghdad.

Chemicals Reportedly Imported via Turkey

NC1009080190 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Iraq has imported 13,000 tons of chemical substances through the Turkish port of Iskenderun since 1988. The Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Iskenderun has disclosed that Iraq imported various types of chemical substances worth $16,500,000 through the port of Iskenderun from 1988 to 1989. Most of these chemical substances were purchased from the FRG, Britain, and other European countries.

Government 'Would Consider' Turkey's Mediation

TA0909165490 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1630 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad (A.A)—Iraq may consider Turkey's mediation toward a solution to the Gulf crisis, a senior Iraqi official said on Sunday.

Iraqi Information Director General Naji al-Hadithi [name as received] told Turkish reporters historical and religious relations existed between Turkey and Iraq and that from their point of view there were no bilateral conflicts. For both countries there was no necessity to take hostile positions [words indistinct] he added.

Asked if Iraq wanted a diplomatic mediation by President Turgut Ozal for a solution to the crisis, al-Hadithi said "we would consider a proposal."

Troops Said 'Moving Towards' Turkish Border

AU1009104490 Rome ANSA in English 1016 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] [ANSA Rome, September 10] [passage omitted] Habur, Turkey—Iraqi troops are moving towards Turkey's north-western border Yugoslav citizens who fled Iraq via Turkey said Sunday. About 80 Yugoslavs said they saw at least 20 lorry-loads of soldiers moving towards the border town of Zakho, not far from the Turkish border town of Habur.

Syrians Report Explosions in Town of Al-Qa'im

JN0909152290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1527 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Dayr al-Zawr—Syrian citizens residing in border villages in Abu Kamal region today heard 46 explosions coming from the Iraqi town of al-Qa'im [site of a major chemical plant], which lies only 5 km away from the city of Abu Kamal.

The SANA correspondent in Dayr al-Zawr, who reported the news, says that minutes later, citizens living near the borders heard the mosque loudspeakers in al-Qa'im urging Iraqi citizens to rush to donate blood to save the life of the injured.

Official Denies Report

JN0909194090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—An official source has denied a report by the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY that explosions went off today at the Iraqi town of al-Qa'im close to the border with Syria. The source told INA the story is sheer fabrication that has no basis in truth.

Kuwaitis Warned To Surrender Weapons by 15 Sep

JN1009191790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The Iraqi forces command in Kuwait today warned that all Kuwaiti citizens should turn all weapons in their possession over to the Iraqi authorities there before next Saturday. According to the Iraqi ultimatum, the severest punishment will be meted out to anyone violating this decision.

Interviewed Foreign Nationals Call for Peace

JN1009190190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Sep 90

[All names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—The foreign nationals who have been hosted by Iraq in one of its vital installations have appealed to the countries of the world to make efforts to establish peace in the Arab region and to sit at the table of negotiations to resolve problems by diplomatic means.

In statements to INA, the foreign nationals have valued the medical treatment they have received from the Iraqi people, asserting that this treatment reflects the generosity of the Iraqi people and their love for all peoples.

British national Mr. John Summer Hazlob said he is having a nice time in Iraq. He also said that he has not been confronted with any obstacles and that he is carrying on with his daily activities as usual.

Mr. David Patrick Lowell, also from the UK, also called for a resolution of all problems by peaceful means. He said he is addressing a message of peace to the world through the Iraqi media calling for an early and quick solution to the Gulf problem.

British national Edian Clark expressed his wishes that European countries respond to Iraq's peaceful calls so as to keep the Arab Gulf region free from wars and problems because it is an important region in the world.

Mr. John Summer Hazlob reiterated that he is enjoying his time in Iraq. He also said he does not have any problems. He expressed his wishes that peace would prevail in all the countries of the region and that big countries would not interfere in the internal affairs of the countries of the region.

Mr. David Patrick Lowell repeated the need to resolve the problems in the region by diplomatic means and not to interfere in the affairs of the countries of the Arab Gulf region.

Mr. Edian Clark, who comes from England, expressed his wish that all the problems of the region would come to an end, that peace would prevail, and that the world would cast aside the woes and dilemmas of war.

British national Mr. Raymond Atkinson expressed his admiration of President Saddam Husayn's peaceful initiatives. He said that President Saddam Husayn's initiatives focus on resolving problems through negotiations and that if world countries opted for war, the world would be destroyed. He described the U.S. forces' buildup in the Gulf region as hostile and as a waste of human and material energy, asserting that many individuals in the US Army are suffering from the hard climate and difficult nature of the area.

He also described the decision to boycott Iraq economically as unjust and capricious. He said that denying children food and medicine is an inhuman measure that no state had ever adopted before.

He added that if the Americans and the West claim to be civilized, then they have to illustrate the meaning of being civilized through humanitarian and responsible behavior.

Mr. Ghassan Muhammad Hashim Marzuq, a U.S. national, said Iraqi peace initiatives affirm Iraq's constant approach, its concern about establishing peace with other countries in the world, and its concern about not starting wars and that there be no interference in the affairs of the countries in the region. He also pointed out that the U.S. President will have to wake up, respond to international norms, and stop threatening the countries of this important region of the world.

U.S. Women, Children Depart Baghdad for Amman

NC0709122690 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 7 (AFP)—A group of 166 (Eds: correct) U.S. women and children trapped in Kuwait since the Iraqi invasion of August 2 left here Friday aboard a chartered Iraqi Airways jet, airline sources said. It was the first group of from among 1,300 American women and children resident in Kuwait to be evacuated, U.S. sources here said. Washington estimates that 2,200 U.S. citizens lived in Kuwait before the invasion.

The flight, which originated in Kuwait, was heading for the Jordanian capital Amman from where the Americans were to fly home, they said. U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Dillen said Thursday that U.S. and Iraqi officials had reached an agreement to begin flying U.S. men and children out of Kuwait.

Two Swedish Diplomats Arrive From Kuwait

LD0909120290 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 0930 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] The two Swedish diplomats from Kuwait, Ambassador Ingolf Kiesow and embassy secretary (Lars-Goeran Persson), are now in Baghdad. The two left Kuwait yesterday morning, together with Norwegian Ambassador Hans Wilhelm, Longva and his two colleagues, and they arrive in Baghdad at 0100. There, they are staying at the residence of the Swedish ambassador to Iraq, Henrik Amneus.

The Foreign Ministry in Stockholm states that it is still unclear when they will be able to leave Iraq. Iraq has declared that all diplomats, who did not vacate their embassies by 24 August have now been deprived of their positions and their diplomatic immunity. The Foreign Ministry in Stockholm regards the Kuwait Embassy as unmanned but not as closed, and this is a diplomatic indication that Sweden does not recognize Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

Iraqi Airways Said To End Flights to Jordan

NC0809175390 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 8 (AFP)—Iraqi Airways will end charters to Amman after a final flight late Saturday taking Americans and Europeans to the Jordanian capital, aviation sources said here.

"This is the last aircraft to leave for Amman as the airport is too crowded to receive new Iraqi Airways flights," one of the sources said. "However, other Iraqi Airways flights to other destinations remain a possibility," the source added. The sources said the last Iraqi charter for Amman was to leave at 9:30 p.m. (1730 GMT) with mostly women and children on board.

Red Cross-Iraqi Talks on Civilians in Gulf Fail

AU0709165890 Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Geneva, Sept 7 (AFP)—Talks between the Iraqi authorities and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] aimed at finding a humanitarian solution to the plight of civilians caught up in the Gulf crisis have failed, ICRC president Cornelio Sommaruga announced here Friday.

The plan had been to come to the aid of Iraqi citizens as well as foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait, Mr. Sommaruga said. Speaking on his return from a week-long mission taking him successively to Amman, Baghdad and Teheran, he said he had run up against a last-minute refusal, even though he had reached agreement with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and top officials of his ministry.

France Accused of Harassing Iraqi Nationals

JN0709183190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1728 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has made the following statement to INA:

Iraqi citizens residing in France, even children, are being exposed to ill-treatment by the French authorities in the form of harassment, detention, deportation, and illegal interrogation, particularly at Paris airports. Several Iraqi citizens at the airports were prevented from entering France, although they obtained the required visas in advance. The French measures also included the detention of 14 Iraqi students from one of the institutes, who were banned from traveling.

A senior official at the French Foreign Ministry said that these measures are taking place for considerations related to French national security.

Iraq has not threatened French national security. Therefore, these French measures can only be explained as an unjustified act which only serves the aggressive purposes that are linked with U.S. policy, which is hostile to Iraq and its people.

Iraq is still treating the French citizens in a normal way, with the exception of the measure of hosting some of them with the purpose of preventing a war. This measure is dictated by the circumstances of the overt threat to launch a military aggression on Iraq by America and its allies, particularly since France is actively participating in the U.S. military campaign.

Measures Against Students Denounced

JN1009113990 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 10, INA—Iraqi students and youth denounced the despotic measures taken by the French authorities and their maltreatment of the Iraqi students studying in France.

In protest march organized yesterday morning to the French Embassy in Baghdad, they condemned the inhuman measures which France have taken against the Iraqi students who are continuing their studies, as this treatment by the French authorities especially at the airports of Paris were considered an inhuman act.

In a protest note handed over to the French embassy in Baghdad, they demanded from the French authorities to stop their maltreatment measures in order to provide opportunity for the Iraqi students to practise their freedoms and legitimate rights.

Paper Views Saddam Message to Bush, Gorbachev

JN0909105190 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 9, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily for today has stressed that Iraq that has been chosen by God to be in the forward position in case the duel had occurred, is the strongest of all the invading armies because it is armed with faith and principles.

The paper has further added in an editorial today that neither the Americans nor others are capable of offering the correct solution to an Arab issue because they are strangers and have ambitions and motivated only by their colonialist policy. The paper has further clarified that the letter of President Saddam Husayn addressed to Presidents Gorbachev of the Soviet Union and Bush of the United States of America comes in conformity with the spirit of the Iraqi peace that constituted a stanchion for humanity to attain what it is now in. It is an expression of Iraq's faith in peace based on justice, fairness and respect to choices of humanity, and confirming at the same time the fact that Iraq is the country of peace, and civilization that cannot be aggressed upon by any one because that contradicts its history, principles and heavenly values according to which it behaves in its dealing with all nations and peoples.

The paper has further added that if purposeful mixing of cards and the unjust media assails envisage contrary to that they are thus committing a grave mistake with regard to Iraq and humanity while trying to efface a civilizational radiation point that has and is still contributing to humanity with all its potentials so that peace may prevail entire humanity.

It has added by saying that both the Soviet President Gorbachev and the American Bush should realize this fact while dealing with a purely Arab issue having its roots and depth. Decisions of the two presidents should be identical to these facts that should only be considered with deliberation and depth and to be compatible with the size of their international responsibilities and impacts of the decision they would take on the international situation.

It has also said that if the issue of Kuwait is to feature high on their agenda they have therefore to get acquainted with the historical facts that should not be disregarded by senior officials like them, the facts that confirm that the Arab nation is one throughout history and that it has not been divided into states and emirates but following the first world war by the victor colonialist countries in the war and also they have to get acquainted with the facts that confirm Kuwait being part of Iraq till a time not long away.

If both presidents Gorbachev and Bush have known these facts they have to consider all the matters according to this perspective, namely, a right which has previously being usurped, has now returned to its legal owners.

The paper has also confirmed that the Arabs are one nation comprising one people, those not need anyone to interfere in its internal affairs and imposes himself militarially on the Arab territories for the purpose of dictating his intention and colonialist greeds under pretext of defending some of its countries while the Arab national security is one and it is the responsibility of the Arab countries themselves. Neither the Americans nor others are capable of offering the sound solution for an Arab issue at the time when the Arabs are capable of resolving their issues by themselves according to their national principles and their accurate knowledge of the facts of their joint history.

Commentary Chides Baker's 'Begging' for Funds

LD0709214390 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States secretary of state, James Baker, said on Tuesday [4 Sep] a new regional security arrangement to deter what he calls future acts of aggression might keep United States forces in the Gulf for quite some time.

Certainly, we'll have to play some role, and, therefore, there would be some presence, some continuing presence there, Baker said in the first United States Administration presentation to congress since the eruption of the Gulf crisis.

With Baker's unequivocal pledge to keep some presence there remains hardly any doubt about the motives of the American massive buildup in the Arab Gulf region. Their first excuse for the arrival of the U.S. and Western forces in the region to defend Saudi Arabia against an imminent Iraqi attack is now in question.

Baker's remark has vindicated Iraq's argument that the United States' troops are up to no good in the region. The U.S. claim to have come to the rescue remains a ramshackle pretext for all the efforts to buttress it by the Saudi, Egyptian, and Moroccan regimes.

Iraq gave its verdict as soon as the first United States soldiers set foot in Saudi Arabia. The United States had (?taken the plan) to send such a massive troop buildup in the Arab Peninsula simply because alot of American interests are at stake. Chief among these interests is oil, this indispensible commodity which the United States has never lost sight of. Any talks about defending Saudi Arabia or to curb Iraq's military might amounts to no more than a cover for the U.S. occupation of (?oil wells) in the Gulf region. The U.S. buildup, carried out so professionally at such a breathtaking speed and seemingly at short notice, gives testimony to the fact that the move was implementation of a long-standing and much longed for strategic plan to occupy the region and determined by the U.S. decision makers.

The plan, however, has turned out to be more costly than first expected. President Bush is squeezing out funds from allies. His secretary of state will soon start a begging tour. But, some U.S. allies have shown reluctance about proxy funding of a purely United States operation. There might come a time when NATO allies and Japan realize they have poured their billions of dollars down the drain.

Their desert shield has proved to be still unpopular. The Saudi Arabia is showering petrodollars in bribes to Arab and foreign states to win their support. Baker's remark has rendered Mubarak's pledge to guarantee a U.S. withdrawal if his condition were met pure wishful (?thinking). The [word indistinct] are there to remain.

Kuwaiti Ties With U.S. Official Disclosed

JN0809142390 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept.8, INA—A document that INA has got disclosed that the ousted Kuwaiti regime established itself as a notorious mini-state whose interests were closely linked to US politics. The Kuwaiti shaykhs were buying lobbyists in the US and elsewhere in the West [with] their multi-billion wealth. Apparently, wooing officials in the US is not a difficult job to do.

Following is a translated text of a letter by the ousted regime's ambassador to the United States, Sa'ud Nasir al-Sa'ud Al-Sabah to the then-Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi asking him to secure a job for Sam Zakhem in one of the US-based Kuwaiti firms as an executive to facilitate his bid for the US Congress.

The ambassador of the defunct Kuwaiti regime requested the oil minister to respond to Zakhem's appeal for help during the period until 1992 because of what the ambassador described as good relations between himself and Zakhem.

Ref.No: MSW/6419
Date: May 18,1990
To: Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi esq., minister of oil.
Dear sir,

Today I have met Mr. Sam Zakhem, the ex-US ambassador to Bahrain who, before that, was member of the US Congress for Colorado. He expressed to me his wish to run for the Congress (Federation) membership for the 1992 elections for Colorado representing the Republican Party. Mr. Zakhem is requesting us to help him, for the present time and until 1992, and appoint him as a member of the board of directors at one of the establishments party or wholly owned by Kuwait in the United States, or as an advisor to such a firm during this period to ensure for him a legal income enabling him to be totally dedicated to his next electoral campaign.

As you know, we maintain good relations with Mr. Zakhem and (appreciate) his good stances towards our Gulf issues, in particular, and the Arab issues in general. I recommend that your excellency kindly offer him whatever facilities or suggestions you deem necessary in this regard to facilitate his task through the establishments and firms in the United States in which Kuwait has interests.

Please inform me of your opinion and decision in this respect.
Please accept my best regards and respect.
Yours faithfully,
Sa'ud Nasir al-Sa'ud al-Sabah.

Commentary Claims Bush Fears 'Truth' on Buildup

LD0809222990 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States President, George Bush, told a press conference on Thursday [6 Sep] that the United States was now (?asserting) a call for collecting financial aid from allies as a support for the United States' troops' invasion of the Arab Peninsula and Gulf.

The United States' president called for laying down an international plan involving its European allies, Japan, and its Arab puppets to finance the United States troop deployment both at the present and in the future. The statement appeared to aim at boosting the already low morale of the United States' troops in the Arab Gulf and finding a way for Mr. Bush out of an economic dilemma his invasion of the Arab region has impelled.

The United States seems to be begging in an early stage of its invasion of the Arab Gulf. Bush's appeal for financial backing also indicates a cowboy policy which, in effect, is beginning to backfire. This state of affairs reminds us of a classic western film showing the drunk cowboy [words indistinct] sitting at his whisky bottle in a saloon and ordering the poor, frightened onlookers to pay him protection fees. Bush is not only asking his allies to pay for protecting the western economic and strategic interests but is also demanding the American taxpayers to tighten their belts and follow strict energy conservation plans his administration is intending to lay down, while the early date of the United States' military deployment on the Gulf draws such (?a persisting appeal). One may well wonder what would happen if the Americans continued their occupation of the area for months or years to come. Many analysts believe that George Bush's external (?push as represented) in collecting protection fees from his allies is an attempt to ease the concern of an internal uproar by American taxpayers over the financial and human burdens of the United States' military involvement in an area millions of American people do not know where it is.

Bush is trying to tell the Americans that they should not worry. Western allies, the rich oil shaykhs of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab emirates, and other Gulf ministates are going to pay Pentagon's military bill. Through such a claim, Bush appears to be ignoring the huge costs of a long-term military involvement in the Arab Gulf.

American taxpayers know that the Unites States military deployment in the Arab gulf region would [words indistinct] of their economic infrastructure [words indistinct] and it is nearly impossible to convince them that his military adventure will have some economic returns. Bush's order that his allies should pay protection fees has come to uncover the bitter fact that with a deficit of billions of dollars the United States' budget is simply unable to bear the burdens of such a huge military operation even if the wealthy oil shaykhs of Saudi Arabia were to use their money to share the bill.

Deploying hundreds of thousands of troops tens of thousands of miles away from home needs allocations of tens of billions of dollars for only a few months. The cost of only a month and a half of the Unites States' troops deployment has been estimated by the United States experts at $2.5 billion. This needs a new (?unreputable) economic force and a strong financial machinery, thing which the United States alone can never have in the foreseen future.

Thus, the only visible way out for Bush to revise his policy in the Gulf before it is too late. Mr. Bush lied to his countrymen when he told them that vital American interests were being threatened in the region because only a few days after he made such a claim he said that the United States troops are there to protect Saudi Arabia. He then said that the Americans' job there is to see [words indistinct] the Kuwaiti [words indistinct] are restored to power.

Bush before others knows himself well and knows that he is lying to the Americans. He lacks the courage to attend a public TV panel to defend his policy. This is precisely why he rejected President Saddam Husayn's offer to join a TV panel to discuss the Gulf issue. The last thing Bush wants is a public panel which will eventually have a catastrophic impact on his career. George Bush seems to fear the truth.

Editor Criticizes Bush Helsinki Statements

JN0909201590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—The INA international affairs editor asserted that the positions expressed by George Bush in his statements at the conclusion of the Helsinki summit reveal his evil tendencies and his spite for the Arab nation and its central issues, primarily the tragedy of the Palestinian people, who are suffering under the Zionist occupation enforced by U.S. support.

Commenting on what Bush said, the INA editor said: The world had hoped that justice and angelic presence would permeate the Bush-Gorbachev summit. However, it seems that Bush—who is haunted by evil spirits and pushed by ghosts to his doom through the plight he has caused his army so as to accomplish his imperialist, Zionist ambitions to possess the oil of Najd and Hejaz—has forgotten the tragedy of the mujahid Palestinian Arab people, who are suffering under the Zionist nightmare, and who are being squashed by the U.S. machine, for which Bush himself is providing funds and weapons.

The editor added: Therefore, we are not surprised by Bush separating the Palestine question and the Gulf issue by saying that the United Nations resolutions should be implemented in isolation from the resolution of the Palestine question, which he described as "some other" issue without naming it. This shows to us the magnitude of the spite which he harbors toward Palestine and its people.

The editor stressed that Bush, who is talking about UN resolutions, should have called them the U.S. resolutions, because the U.S. Administration and Bush himself have devoted themselves to following up on these resolutions and supervising their implementation in an unjust manner by imposing a blockade on Iraq, through which he wants to prevent food and medication from reaching the children of Iraq.

The INA international affairs editor concluded his commentary by saying: At any rate, we are not surprised by what Bush said, because these days the big powers are not interested in peoples' interests, and because their policies are not governed by principles inasmuch as they are motivated by the prospect of direct material gains and election boxes and severe crises, which surround each one of them.

Air Force Commander Reacts to U.S. General

JN0909152590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1409 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Commenting on statements by General Royal Moore, commander of the U.S. Air Force which is occupying the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], in which he claimed his forces can destroy Iraqi radars in less that five minutes and can also obliterate its Air Force within 36 hours, Staff Major General Muzahim Sa'b, commander of the Air Force and Defense Force, has stated the following:

Once again, another American Rambo enters the domain of hollow propaganda to announce that, with a stroke of a pen, he can destroy Iraq's radars and air force. Although in announcing his dramatic bravado this American commander hides behind technological superiority rather than men's superiority, he knows that his troops, as well as the other forces, lack a just cause for which to offer their sacrifice. I tell the commander of the U.S. Air Force in the land of Najd and Hejaz without going into detail: If you and the others are pushed into the abyss, you will discover that calculations on paper differ from those on the ground and that the effectiveness of any weapon will never achieve goals unless it is coupled with the effectiveness of the other weapons in a battle like this.

If the superiority of your weapons alone had achieved all goals, O little Rambo, your tyrannical government would have controlled the world. Since you will never control the world, you have to remember that God is above all, and that the will of peoples cannot be weighed theoretically. The testing of men's ability will be in the battlefield, and out of concern for the blood of our men and humanity, we hope it will not occur. But if it occurs as a result of your reckless deed, you will discover that initial calculations may eventually be proved wrong, as the saying goes.

However, God is with us and you will be accursed. The Iraqi Armed Forces led by the brave hawks, with God's help, will be lying in wait for you and will cover the skies. Only then we can talk about the harvest and the relationship of the computer with reality. Tomorrow will surely come.

Thatcher's Policy in Gulf Crisis Criticized

JN0809141890 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 8, INA—Many people, especially in Britain, still recall the banner reading "Shylock Thatcher, milk snatcher," which was raised by protesters against the then education minister, now prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, the British were shocked by Mrs Thatcher's decision to apply austere measures on school children and cut off their milk.

That was more than a decade ago, but the current events in a far-away region, the Arab Gulf, help to assess the degree of self-centred attitude of the "Iron Lady." To the dismay of millions of British mothers, Mrs Thatcher was later to become prime minister.

Ironically, Mrs Thatcher went out of her way to dispatch a special plane to the Algerian desert to look for her son, Mark, who had been missing during a trans-desert rally. That was in the early 1980s. At the time, the "Iron Lady" let herself [be] caught with tears running down her cheeks. Other British mothers were not surprised at the misuse of public funds for a private affairs. It was her son, after all. But what about the sons of millions of other people who are likely to die or Iraqi children who are being denied milk, food and medicine?

It is not enough to talk about right and wrong, justice and injustice or lawful and unlawful. Everybody can boast of their concern for human rights. Everybody can speak about international law. However, those who keep bragging should honour their pledge, otherwise, their lies would soon show.

To Mrs. Thatcher, human rights and international norms dictate that she and politicians of her make are the ones to pass the last word. To this effect, Thatcher staunchly supports United States threats to the people of Iraq and other Arab countries. Thatcher even encourages the administration of U.S. President George Bush to go further than verbal threatening, she is trigger-happy for a military flare-up in the Arab region.

Who has provoked Mrs Thatcher or her country? Has Iraq sent its fleets to besiege the British isles so that she has to fend off an aggression? If this were the case, one would readily sympathise with the iron lady of 10 Downing Street. Mrs. Thatcher and some of her English colleagues do not seem to have recovered from the shocking loss of an empire. They still seem to think of the Arab world as a colony and the Arab people as lower species.

Mrs Thatcher should wake up from the colonial dreams of an empire that was. She should start thinking of British interests in this part of the world. British interests are at stake and the British people would lose a great deal should their government continue its anti-Iraq policy. British squadrons, just like US forces, would not be of much help to fulfill the aims of neo-colonialists.

Coalition Sends Cable on Thatcher 'Inhumanity'

JN0709194590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—A coalition of nationalist parties and independent nationalist and pan-Arab figures grouped under the Progressive National and Patriotic Front [PNPF] in Iraq has condemned British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's sinister anti-Iraqi role and her promotion of aggression against its great people.

The PNPF cabled a message to the British prime minister stating that, led by President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi people will chop the hand of whoever harms them, and the perpetrators of any treacherous aggression against Iraq will suffer a veritable catastrophe.

The cable added: Humanity abhors the immorality and inhumanity to which the Thatcher Government has descended, playing the role of the obsequious lackey to the American policies, jeopardizing global security and peace, and driving humanity to the brink of a truly destructive catastrophe.

The PNPF said dialogue is the high road to stability and security.

Editor Attacks Mubarak on Gulf, Iraq

JN0809210790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1926 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY international affairs editor mocks the statements made by Husni [Mubarak] today in which he called for expediting the military solution in case the economic embargo proves to be useless and his statement that "this does not mean that we will wait for one year."

The editor says that Husni finds it improper for Iraq to possess missiles and chemical weapons, and alleges that "there can be no peace as long as such weapons are in Iraq."

The editor stresses that when he spoke of Iraq's possession of these capabilities, Husni removed all the masks covering his face and showed his heart, which is full of innate rancor against Iraq and the Arab nation. Husni should have talked about the atomic bombs possessed by Israel his ally, which uses them to threaten the entire Arab nation, the editor adds.

The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY says: We would address Husni, saying "You should have exposed your intentions and your disgraceful image in stages before the Egyptian people and the Arab nation, which already knows you. You should not have driven yourself into this deep abyss in a single dive."

Editor Reacts to Douglas Hurd Statements

JN0909205590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1856 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has said that British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has deliberately shuffled cards and fudged issues by lumping together aggression and the return of territory to the motherland.

Reacting to Hurd's remarks equating aggression with reuniting the homeland, the editor said: We find it strange that a foreign minister who is supposed to be conversant with foreign policy cannot see the distinction between aggression and the reinstitution of usurped rights to whom they belong and the reunification of national soil. If the restoration of the integrity of Iraq's national soil is termed aggression by Hurd, how would he characterize the imperialist-Zionist occupation of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]? And what has Hurd to say about the goals of this occupation, whose dimensions and short- and long-term objectives have been exposed by successive statements that they are here for a long stay, the editor added.

Whatever smokescreens the United States and Britain create to cover their aggressive plans to reshape the region so as to suit their own interests, the true nature and scale of the sordid conspiracy they are hatching against our Iraqi people and Arab nation have grown crystal clear.

The INA editor added: It looks from our end that British officials' memories only retain such vocabulary as aggression, expansion, domination, and other such words that they have traditionally used in their dealings with other peoples. Machinations of hostile forces are bound to be crushed by the resolve of our proud people, who shall continue their march down the road to their objectives under the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, said the INA editor.

'Aziz Comments on Egypt's Role in Dividing Arabs

JN0509193190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA) [dateline as received]—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has made the following statement to INA:

Day after day, the premeditated, destructive role of the Egyptian government in dividing the Arab nation and destroying the organizations of common Arab action is more evident. The agents of the United States who control Egyptian policy are in fact taking revenge on the Arab League, which rejected Camp David and resisted the endeavors of those who want to spread the notion of Camp David in the entire Arab world, in order to liquidate the Palestine question—in fact, to liquidate Arab independence and place the entire Arab nation under the Zionist-American umbrella as they did with Egypt.

The first meeting held in Cairo after the return of the Egyptian regime to the Arab League ended up dividing the Arab countries. The agents of the United States were not satisfied with this; they called for another meeting to entrench this division. After they failed to obtain the number of votes that would allow them to decide the move of Arab League headquarters to Cairo, they called for a third meeting. And this is why the secretary general of the Arab League is tendering his resignation under these circumstances today.

The foreign minister expressed regret over the resignation of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who served pan-Arab issues and common Arab action through perseverance and a balanced course. The foreign minister declared that it is necessary to protect this pan-Arab organization from the conspiracies of the agents of the United States and to safeguard the Arab League as a genuine pan-Arab organization.

He also stressed that the Arab League headquarters should remain in Tunis.

Ministry Spokesman on Moving Arab League to Cairo

JN0909110690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1812 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

Having failed to guarantee the necessary legal quorum to transform the emergency meeting which it called for on 30 August into an ordinary meeting, and to use that meeting to raise the issue of moving the headquarters of the Arab League General Secretariat from Tunis to Cairo, the Egyptian Government has persisted in its subversive course aimed at fragmenting the mother pan-Arab institutions of joint action and called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council in Cairo on 10 September to pass a resolution to move the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo.

The spokesman added: The Arab League Council adopted Resolution No. 4,983 on 11 March 1990 to set up a five-member ministerial committee, chaired by Iraq, to discuss means to execute the decision to move the headquarters of the Arab League General Secretariat from Tunis to Cairo, provided that the announcement on the return of the headquarters [to Cairo] be made during the Council's ordinary session, scheduled to be held in September in Tunis. It was also agreed to set up another center for the League in Tunis and to complete the building for this center, to make Tunis the permanent headquarters for three Arab organizations, and to reach a fair settlement with the staff and employees at the League's headquarters in Tunis who may find it difficult to move to Cairo.

It is clear that this resolution is a political one that was adopted unanimously and which has taken all the parties' interests into consideration. The implementation of the clauses of this resolution was considered an indivisible whole. Moreover, the five-member ministerial committee, that was entrusted with the implementation of this resolution, is a political committee and not an ordinary technical committee as the Egyptian Government tries to insinuate. In light of this, how can the emergency Cairo meeting, which will be attended by only 11 states, with the absence of 9 states that have their known weight in the Arab family, decide to move the headquarters before the ministerial committee submits its final report to discuss and guarantee the implementation of all its six clauses?

While warning against the Egyptian Government's suspect and subversive action, we consider that any resolution that will be issued by the Cairo meeting, scheduled to be held on Monday, illegal and not binding to us. This is because the issue of moving the Arab League headquarters must be discussed at the ordinary session of the Arab League Council in Tunis, as was decided previously, and that it must be agreed on unanimously as was the case regarding Resolution No. 4,983.

The Egyptian Government's actions give further proof of what we have said to the effect that Cairo cannot be a suitable, neutral place to host the Arab League headquarters following its exposed bias toward the Arab nation's enemies and its actual participation in implementing the U.S. plan to invade the Arabian Gulf and desecrate the Arab and Islamic sanctities through dispatching forces to Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states, in addition to the mercenary U.S. and NATO troops.

Cairo Not 'Appropriate' for League Headquarters

JN0709181290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that keeping the Arab League headquarters in Tunis is a pan-Arab task to ensure that Arab institutions can be free of conspirators' intrigues.

In a commentary today, the newspaper discusses the series of subversive plots hatched by the Egyptian ruler's regime against the Arab League since the beginning of the U.S. invasion of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. This, the paper says, has proved that the Egyptian regime is a major partner in the conspiracy and one of the cheap tools used to execute it.

The paper goes on to expose the conspiracy of Husni Mubarak and his group against the nation's pan-Arab character. It says that in accordance with their role, the Egyptian regime officials, led by Husni Mubarak, have chosen to strike at Arab institutions that have a pan-Arab nature—specifically the Arab League.

AL-THAWRAH says that the wild campaign launched by the Camp David agents against the Arab League, along with the attempts to impose hegemony on it and sabotage its infrastructure, are connected to the Egyptian regime's campaign and frenzied drive to split Arab ranks and take revenge on the honorable Arabs, who confronted the colonialist-Zionist onslaught and who courageously faced the treachery of Husni Mubarak and his ilk.

The paper says the last three meetings in Cairo have exposed the dimensions of the Camp David clique's subversive scheme against the League. These meetings, the paper adds, confirm that Cairo is no longer the appropriate place for the League to play its required role and that Chedli Klibi's resignation from his post as the League's secretary general tolls the bell of danger and lays the facts down before all.

Hammadi on Economics of Kuwaiti-Iraqi 'Unity'

JN0209114190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1934 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Interview with Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister and Revolution Command Council member, by unidentified radio and television reporter, date not given—recorded]

[Reporter] Ladies and gentlemen: We are happy to have with us Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council, and deputy prime minister. Welcome.

[Hammadi] Thank you.

[Reporter] What is the economic significance of unity between Kuwait and Iraq, in your opinion?

[Hammadi] I am glad that public opinion is being given the opportunity to view the economic aspect of the important political event—namely, the unity of Iraq's southern part with us. It is an important side that ought to be explored for the benefit of Iraqi and Arab public opinion, in the first instance. Of course, the economic side is extensive and multifaceted. Iraq is a key oil producer. Iraq's known oil reserves before unity were 100 billion barrels, comprising 10 percent of world reserves. The known reserves in the governorate of Kuwait are currently 94.5 billion barrels. Consequently, the new united Iraq's oil reserves amount to 194 billion barrels, equivalent to approximately 20 percent of the world reserves of 1,001.1 billion barrels. I would like to point out, though, that Iraq's known reserves of 100 billion barrels before unity is not final. Iraq is a vast country, and the potential for oil discoveries remains immense. The survey of Iraq is not yet final to allow for an exact figure on Iraq's reserves. After the July 1968 Revolution and Law No. 80, Iraq was subjected to an oil embargo by multinational oil companies. And so Iraq remained without a detailed survey for a long time. I therefore expect that Iraq's oil reserves will exceed this figure. It is therefore not ruled out that Iraq's reserves will exceed 20 percent of total world reserves, and conseqeuntly be at the top of the league of oil producers. Of course, we are not producing at full capacity, but according to Iraq's quota set by OPEC. Prior to unity with Kuwait, Iraq's quota was, as is known, 3.1 million barrels per day [bpd]. The quota of the Governorate of Kuwait is 1.5 million bpd as fixed by OPEC, but not adhered to by the former rulers of Kuwait, who produced in excess of 2 million bpd. New Iraq is, of course, a charter OPEC member and has consistently and faithfully abided by OPEC resolutions. Therefore, there is no question of new Iraq following the same pattern of behavior as the former Kuwait Government. Iraq will stick to its OPEC quota, which, after unification, is 4.6 million bpd.

Of course, public opinion in Iraq and among the Arab masses probably wants to know what Iraq's returns will be, because economic significance is attached to the returns of the hard currency which the country possesses. Iraq's returns, if estimated in view of its current quota, which is 4.6 billion bpd, and at the minimum price, which is now $25 per barrel, will amount to $38.3 billion annually. If we estimate the price, however, not at $25, because after a while it will go higher to reach $30 per barrel of the current production, the returns will amount to about $46 billion annually.

Iraq, however, does not only emphasize a rise in prices, but also believes that production should increase in a logical and gradual manner, so that it will be in harmony with the increasing demand for oil in the world. Iraq has been known for its moderate oil policy, which believes that prices and production should go higher in a gradual, logical manner that ensures the interests of the producing countries on the one hand; that is, maintaining the purchasing power of the barrel, and at the same time not causing temporary crises in the economies of the world and the underdeveloped countries.

So, if production rises [changes thought], if the production quota of the new Iraq rises from 4.6 to 5 million barrels at a price of $25, the returns of Iraq will amount to $45.6 billion annually. Hence, 5 million barrels at $30 each means that returns will total $54.8 billion annually. However, if we imagine that Iraq's quota will increase on the long run to more than that—say, for example, 5.5 million barrels, the returns, at the price of $25 [per barrel] will amount to $50.2 billion annually, and will amount to $60.2 billion annually at the price of $30 annually.

This is the view about the financial and economic impact of the unification of the southern part of Iraq with the mother homeland, as regards the oil returns. However, the topic has other aspects. Here, I should not forget to talk about Iraq's coast. Before unity, Iraq was almost considered one of the landlocked countries, though it was not completely landlocked. The length of the Iraqi coast before unity, for example, was about 60 kilometers. It is not only that the distance is short, but access to the Iraqi coasts was through narrow waterways that could easily be blocked in times of emergency. This means that Iraq's contact with the outside world through its coasts used to be through a narrow waterway which was subject to closure for hostile reasons during wartime or disasters. So, Iraq, in fact, was one of the countries that was semi-landlocked. Following the unification of Iraq, the length of the Iraqi coast has become 362 kilometers. In addition, the long coast has freed Iraq from this stifling situation. Thus, Iraq's lack of wide coasts, the element of threat—that is, having to cross through narrow waterways subject to blockade, was eliminated and access to and from Iraq has changed. This, of course, has clear military and economic implications.

Therefore, the capacity of Iraqi ports has improved at present. Before the unification between Iraq and Kuwait, Iraqi port capacity was not designed to handle more than 16 million tonnes. The actual volume of goods handled by these ports was lower than this figure. But after the unification between Iraq and Kuwait, there is an additional port capacity to handle almost 10 million tonnes of goods. Thus, the capacity of ports in new Iraq has become 26.5 million tonnes which can be handled through the import and export services. This, of course, ends a disturbing bottleneck and suits the phase of massive development awaiting Iraq after unification of the southern part with the motherland.

[Reporter] Doctor, these maps show it.

[Hammadi] Yes, the maps show the Iraqi shores before and after unification. They show how the Iraqi shoreline has expanded, how Iraq has secured access to the sea, and how export outlets have grown. As regards oil, Iraqi export capacity is different right now. Before Iraq's unification with Kuwait, Iraq had an oil exporting capacity totaling 4.3 million BPD. This means that had Iraq's OPEC quota increased and reached 5 million BPD, Iraq would have had to establish new export outlets and to spend funds on this. Now that the southern part of Iraq has been unified with the homeland, the oil export capacity has risen to 7.3 million BPD. This means that if Iraq's OPEC quota were to increase and reach 5 million BPD or to 5.5 million BPD, Iraq would not have to establish new export outlets, or new ports for exporting oil. Of course, there are three new ports: the 'Abdallah port, the al-Shu'aybah, and the al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi] port in the Governorate of Kuwait right now. Consequently, Iraqi oil exporting capacity has become extensive. It can handle more than its current OPEC production quota or even any possible increase in its quota in the foreseeable future. As we have said, this quota might increase and become 5 million or 5.5 million BPD. Iraq has the capacity to export 7.3 million BPD.

There is another aspect that has to be brought up. Industrial installations, mostly from the private sector, have recently emerged in the southern part of Iraq. Statistics show that the Governorate of Kuwait has 883 industrial installations. These installations have added an industrial production capacity to Iraq's industrial capacity prior to unification. Figures show that there are in the Governorate of al-Basrah, for example, 81 industrial installations specializing in food and beverage, 24 specializing in textile and clothing, three leather industries, 87 installations specializing in timber and furniture, 65 specializing in paper, 114 specializing in chemicals, 223 specializing in mining, eight specializing in minerals, 225 specializing in metal products, 14 specializing in the manufacture of nonelectrical equipment, 16 specializing in the manufacture of electrical appliances, 13 specializing in the manufacture of transport equipment, and 10 specializing in numerous intermediate products. The grand total is 883 installations. Thus, the private sector in new Iraq has expanded. Integration and interaction among these installations, the socialist sector, the mixed sector, and the private sector existing in Iraq before unification will take place. Consequently, Iraqi industrial capacity has expanded and become more effective and active than it was in the past. These are the economic aspects which I can review in brief as one of the effects resulting from the unification of the southern part of Iraq with the homeland.

[Reporter] How do you think this will affect Iraq's development?

[Hammadi] Before dealing with this, I must give some information on the previous development plans. This information indicates that the investment budget for 1980, which is one of the highest, was $11.6 billion. This means that we invested $11.6 billion. The actual investment average from 1981 to 1989 was about $13.3 billion.

In answering the first question, I mentioned that the minimum amount of revenues based on new Iraq's quota—that is, Iraq's quota plus the Kuwait Governorate's quota, at a price of $25—will be 38.3 billion. This revenue could reach $60.2 billion if we produce 5.5 million BPD at $30 per barrel; Iraqi revenues would be $60.2 billion.

Therefore, I expect that on the basis of these new revenues, Iraq's annual development plan will be between $10 and $30 billion at a minimum. This means that if these figures are realized, the annual investments in development will be between $10 and $30 billion.

In addition, there is the debts issue. I expect that we will be able to repay all of our debts within two, four, or five years at the most. This will be done directly and without periods of grace or postponement as we have done in the past. Therefore, Iraq will obviously be able to repay its debts in two to four years and invest in development between $10 and $30 billion. The remainder will be expended on imports and Iraq's defense and other needs. This means that we will place our economy on a sound, healthy basis and the wheel of development will start moving again.

[Reporter] Can you give us an idea about Arab development efforts and new Iraq's role in the Arab countries' development?

[Hammadi] For a very long time, Iraq has been at the forefront of those calling and working for promoting Arab development. Iraq upholds the motto that oil wealth belongs to all Arabs and that there should be a balanced distribution in using this wealth for development in Arab countries. This means that countries that have a surplus of oil revenues must seriously assist countries that are short of hard currency and those that need capital for development. However, this last period of development has regrettably been less than Arab aspirations and much below the required level.

For instance, total loans from Arab funding to all Arab countries since the establishment of the Arab Fund 10 years ago, did not exceed $6.6 billion.

If we take the needs of Arab states and their populations, particularly those of needy countries like Sudan and other Arab states into account, we would find that the resources earmarked for assistance by the oil states through their fund have been very meager. You are well aware that Iraq made persistent and immense efforts to secure the convening of an economic summit. This summit was held in November 1980.

After immense and persistent efforts, Iraq managed to make the oil-producing Arab countries approve what was known at the time as the development decade document. The development decade document provides for the allocation of $500 million per year by all oil-producing Arab states over a 10-year period; that is, $5 billion over a 10-year period, to aid all other Arab states. Regrettably, this agreement which calls for the collection of this meager amount of $500 million per year from all oil-producing states was not implemented due to Iraq's preoccupation with the war. Meetings to discuss the issue followed one another. Procrastination and prevarication prevailed during these meetings. This continued until the development decade ended with a resolution forced by the Gulf states which called for increasing the capital in the existing funds rather than renewing the development decade's term. That was the end of the issue. As for the capital for these funds, it was not increased. Nothing happened. The situation remained unchanged. I will try and work through the revolutionary government in Iraq to renew the Arab development decade agreement. I will also work for a serious fund to which oil-producing Arab states will be asked to contribute to effect real development in Arab states. I propose and believe that this fund should have a capital of $50 billion over a 10-year period. That is, $5 billion should be contributed per year, instead of $5 billion over a 10-year period which was reflected in the previous summit resolution. I expect that Iraq will be a major contributor to this new fund, which will have a capital of $50 billion to be contributed over a 10-year period to aid the other Arab states that need resources and hard currency for development.

I also believe that the procedures to obtain loans should be simplified and that the harsh conditions set by some Arab funds should be eased. These funds set strict conditions similar to those imposed by the IMF. They are setting conditions and using procedures that are difficult for Arab states. This reduces the benefits that can be drawn from these funds due to these conditions and procedures. Moreover, I believe that these conditions should be relaxed. I also believe that the conditions should be eased so that needy Arab states can actually benefit from the new development decade. I would like to reiterate that the capital of this new decade should be $50 billion over a 10-year period; that is, $5 billion per year to be contributed by the oil-producing countries to other needy Arab states.

Premier Speaks at Moscow News Conference

WA0709161690

For USSR coverage of comments by Iraqi Premier Tariq 'Aziz at a Moscow news conference, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 7 September Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves on 'Official Visit' to Tehran

JN0909082090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Tehran today at the head of a delegation on an official visit of several days to Iran.

Tariq 'Aziz is accompanied by a delegation comprising 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, oil minister, and Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, permanent Iraqi representative at the UN European Office in Geneva.

Returns 10 Sep

JN1009125590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1242 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation today returned to Baghdad from Tehran following a two-day visit to Iran.

During the visit, Tariq 'Aziz held talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati which dealt with bilateral relations and means to achieve a lasting peace between the two countries. It was also agreed to set up a joint committee to expedite the exchange of all prisoners of war between the two countries.

The delegation that accompanied Mr. Tariq 'Aziz comprised Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi and Barzan al-Takriti, Iraq's permanent representative at the UN European headquarters in Geneva.

Perez de Cuellar Meets With UN Representative

JN0709191990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] United Nations, 7 Sep (INA)—At his request, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met yesterday afternoon with Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraqi permanent UN representative.

The secretary general asked Ambassador al-Anbari to sound out the Iraqi Government's position on allowing Kufi 'Anan, [name as received] the UN secretary general's representative currently present in Baghdad, to visit Kuwait.

It seems that the secretary general had raised this issue during his consultations with the Security Council members earlier today and promised them that he would ask Iraq to allow Kufi 'Anan to visit Kuwait.

Algeria's Abbassi Madani Arrives on Visit

JN0609070990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—Abbassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Madani was welcomed at the airport by 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, and ministry officials.

Meets Saddam

JN0909181790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1856 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Dr. Abbassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria. They discussed current situation and developments in the Arab region.

Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil attended the meeting.

Official Meets Sri Lankan Minister

JN0609110690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1022 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun received Sri Lankan Labor Minister Premachandra today and briefed him on measures taken by the Iraqi authorities to provide care for foreigners, including Sri Lankans.

He referred to the crime perpetrated by the United States and its allies by preventing the arrival of food and medicines in Iraq and the impact of this crime on everyone. He said the concerned governments and the world community should assume their responsibility of confronting this inhuman policy.

Italian Legislators Call on Assembly Speaker Salih

JN0809080290 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] An Italian parliamentary delegation has voiced support for leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August envisioning a settlement of all the problems of the region based on equal standards. The remark was made when Mr. (Mario Cabana), member of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Italian parliament, and his delegation called on National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today. They discussed regional developments.

Meet With Culture Minister

JN0809205390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, today met with Mario Cabana [name as received], member of the Italian parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, and his delegation.

During the meeting the minister reviewed the historical dimensions of Iraq's right in Kuwait as an indivisible part of its national soil. The minister stressed that the Arabs, Muslims, and the sincere people in the world support Iraq now in the fight against the forces of infidelity and injustice, represented by the United States and its allies.

The minister stressed that Iraq is ready for battle should the United States choose to ignite it. Iraq will be supported by all sincere people in the Arab and Islamic nations and the world, and great Iraq will triumph under President Saddam Husayn, he said.

He also stressed that the economic blockade which the United States is trying to impose by force will be foiled by the people of Mesopotamia with their heroic steadfastness for which they are known.

Mr. Mario Cabana expressed solidarity with Iraq and voiced full support to leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August 1990, which calls for a comprehensive solution to all problems in the region. He pointed out that the economic blockade and the U.S. troops' presence and threats against Iraq will be crushed on the rock of the Iraqis' steadfastness. He pointed out that the Italian people oppose war and the dispatch of foreign troops to the Arabian Gulf.

Indian Delegation Arrives on Visit 8 Sep

JN0909062090 Baghdad INA in English 1545 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 8, INA—Member of the Indian Parliament Edward Valero [name as received] arrived in Baghdad heading a delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

He said in a statement to INA he would hold talks with officials at the Iraqi National Assembly dealing with bilateral relations and developments of the current situation in the Arab Gulf region.

Ramadan Returns From PRC Visit, Details Talks

JN0809155390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1412 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad today following a three-day visit to the PRC.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he briefed the PRC State Council premier and other PRC leaders during his visit on the reality regarding what is taking place in the Arab region, and on the U.S. cover, under which conspiratorial links are being hatched with a view to enabling the Americans and the Zionists to serve their interests, secure direct hegemony over Arab oil wells, and monopolize their exploitation at the expense of the peoples of the region and the entire world.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: We affirmed to the PRC leaders that the key to resolving problems in the Arab region lies in the immediate withdrawal of foreign fleets and troops from Arab lands and waters. He indicated that the tactics of threats and terrorism being pursued by the United States and its allies against small and big states will be crushed against the will of the Iraqis and the well-meaning individuals within the Arab and Islamic nation who stick to the principles of liberation, sovereignty, and independence.

The first deputy prime minister noted that the PRC State Council premier affirmed his country's rejection of the use of force and of imposing hegemony on peoples. The PRC State Council premier also asserted that he supports peaceful efforts to avert the catastrophe of war and bring about peace and security. Ramadan went on to say that the PRC leaders affirmed to him that they officially notified the UN Security Council that banning medicine and food shipments to the Iraqi people and children is not included in the boycott resolution against Iraq.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said he also discussed during the visit bilateral ties with PRC leaders. He added that the PRC leaders affirmed their strong eagerness to continue to cooperate on a bilateral basis to develop bilateral cooperation in continuation of the march of bilateral cooperation which continued under various circumstances. He also said: We and the PRC side affirmed the need to continue consultations and dialogue between officials of the two countries to enhance the chances of peace in the region, to create better and more comprehensive cooperation among the world states which are advocates of peace, freedom, and progress, and also to combine efforts to confront the imperialist hegemony and domination.

Chinese Reportage on Ramadan Visit to China

WA0709143190

For Chinese reportage on the visit to China by Iraqi First Deputy Premier Ramadan, including his talks with Premier Li Peng and Vice-Premier Wu Xueqian, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 6 September and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

UN Group Commander Leaves Baghdad for Tehran

JN0809142890 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 8, INA—Gen. Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) left Baghdad this morning for Tehran.

Gen. Jovic was seen off at the airport by his assistant at the Iraqi side and the resident representative in Baghdad as well as several officers of the body of coordination with the observer group.

More POW's Exchanged With Iran

7 Sep

JN0709173890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—The 25th group of the Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returned to the homeland over land this evening. [passage omitted]

A new group of Iranian POW's was handed over today. They are part of the Iranian POW's which Iraq has decided to release pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's initiative on 15 August.

8 Sep

JN1009053890 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The 26th batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returning to the homeland arrived at the border area of al-Mundhiriyah last night. [passage omitted]

In a related development, a new batch of Iranian POW's was handed over yesterday. This batch included 900 POW's which Iraq decided to release following President Saddam Husayn's humanitarian initiative.

POW's Reportedly Exempt From Military Service

JN0909075790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Sep 90 p 16

[Text] Baghdad—PETRA—The Iraqi Government has decided to exempt all prisoners of war (POW's) from armed or unarmed military service.

It has also decided to give land grants to POW's as well as real estate loans, and to allow them to continue their education. It will also give marriage loans to bachelors.

Priority has been given to the treatment of POW's at health centers. Also, for the the first time in the history of wars, it has been recommended that POW's be handed over to their families so that they can resume a normal life and adapt to the new life awaiting them.

Official Condemns U.S. Food 'Blockade'

JN0709211490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—Reacting to the crime commited by Bush and the U.S. Administration of tracking and blocking children's milk and food shipped before the passage of the iniquitous UN Security Council resolution slapping an economic blockade on Iraq, a Trade Ministry official has stated to the INA the following:

In this last decade of the twentieth century, the world is bearing witness to a black chapter of the imperialist law of the jungle, as expressed by the U.S. Administration's decision—at the prompting of the world Zionist movement—to deprive the children of proud, independent Iraq of milk and nourishment. With such unparalleled savagery, all claims by the U.S Administration and its confederates who profess to be champions of human rights and peoples' freedom are thus debunked.

Let all the honorable people around the world, and in Arab, regional, and international economic organizations, who care about justice and the welfare of humanity see President Bush himself and his war machine and intelligence agencies tracking on land, at sea, and in ports milk and food shipments that had been contracted and paid for prior to the wicked economic embargo resolution. They include substantial quantities of children's milk contracted by the Trade Ministry with international firms, and have now been seized at the Bulgarian port of Varna and the Turkish port of Mersin. However, the U.S. Administration has decided for its selfish interests to take delivery of Iraqi oil consignments shipped before 2 September 1990.

Moreover, the U.S. Administration banned the implementation of several contracts to import milk and foodstuffs which were concluded at the beginning of this year. It has thus inflicted harm not only on Iraq's interests, but also those of companies and exporters of other countries.

No other tyrant thirsty for stifling the souls of children has ever dared to commit such a crime as this crime of the age perpetrated by the U.S. Administration under the umbrella of the UN Security Council, however thirsty he may have been for the lives of children—the flowers of life and the fountain wells ensuring the continuity of human societies.

This treacherous crime has granted us strength to ignite the deterring energies of the hearts, consciences, and arms of the lofty Iraqis—children, women, and elderly, the soldiers of victorious leader Saddam Husayn—on the basis of our steadfastness, national pride, and pan-Arab will coupled with the good will throughout the world designed to foil the economic blockade and abort the enemy's plans to spark a destructive, aggressive war. Good voices are raised against this brutal crime. They also condemn and confront the insistence of the U.S. Administration on depriving children of milk, patients of medicine, and people of food.

In light of this, the false masks of Bush, the Zionists, and the treacherous rulers—the oil brokers like the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, and the Camp David tool, Husni, have begun to peel off. The goals of their treacherous crime in starving Iraq's children and massing fleets and the invasion forces to desecrate Islamic lands are to completely control the nation's resources, exhaust its wealth, and hamper its progress.

Iraq's children, as President Saddam Husayn said, refuse to beg for milk from the infidels and the dissolute, and their brave fathers and the glorious daughters of al-Qadisiyah [9th century Omayyad defeat of Persians] will wrest life for them, relying on God.

The great people of the al-Qadisiyah are recording for themselves, the Arabs, and humanity another glorious eternal page in the book of steadfastness, challenge, and victory in contemporary human history under the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

UN Organizations Exhorted To Protect Children

JN0809074890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] United Nations, 8 Sep (INA)—Iraq has called on UN organizations, particularly UNICEF, to work in earnest to protect the chidlren of Iraq from the risk of starvation as a result of the ban imposed by the United States and its allies on food and medical supplies to the children of Iraq. This came in the speech delivered by the Iraqi representative to the preparatory meeting for the international summit for children organized by UNICEF at UN headquarters in New York.

The Iraqi envoy said that millions of innocent Iraqi children are being exposed to an inhumane and immoral blockade carried out by the United States and its allies. He noted that Iraq could not imagine that a summit on children would convene while the fate of the Iraqi children was not being an object of concern or a topic of discussion. Ignoring such a situation would cast doubts on the credibility of international efforts to protect children.

The Iraqi envoy informed the UNICEF meeting that the children of Iraq would like to know that the agreement on protecting children's rights and the universal declaration of the summit on children were not merely pieces of paper, but a working program that could protect them from the most hideous, premeditated blockade.

Smuggling Attempt Through Cyprus Said Foiled

JN0709144690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Iraq has been foiled in attempts to sign contracts with Cypriot companies for the shipment of foodstuffs via illegal ports in East Beirut and other friendly Arab capitals. Informed diplomatic sources in Beirut disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD that, over the past few days, representatives of Iraqi trade firms made secret approaches to a number of Cypriot navigation companies to smuggle consumer goods via Limassol Port. While keeping these companies under close watch, the Cypriot Government has warned all navigation companies operating on the island that they will bear the consequences of any violations of the economic embargo decreed by the UN Security Council. Western embassies in Beirut are also keeping these contacts under close scrutiny, along with the movements of Iraqi envoys in Cyprus.

Paper Notes Iran Ready To Allow Food Through

JN1009124990 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 90 p 12

[Text] Tehran, agencies—An Iranian newspaper yesterday hinted that Iran "may send food and medicines to Iraq."

The TEHRAN TIMES, which is close to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has said: "There is a humanitarian issue that must be discussed in Iran nowadays; that is, will Iran help the Iraqi Muslim people in these critical days in which they are facing an economic blockade?"

The paper added: "Since, according to the UN resolutions, the sanctions do not include food or medicine, then Iran must choose to help the Iraqi people."

It pointed out that Iran is ready to resolve all the problems concerning foodstuffs and medicines, and that it will also allow ships carrying foodstuffs and medicines to Iraq to use Iranian ports if the need arises.

The paper explains that "Iran has every right to view the crisis in the Gulf from its national interest perspective."

Food, Medical Supplies Arrive From Iran

JN0909204390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] The first delivery of Iranian assistance to Iraq arrived in Baghdad last night. It included food and medical supplies. Diplomats described this Iranian initiative as a step to consolidate peace between the two neighboring Muslim countries and a response to the schemes aimed at starving Iraq.

Ration Card System in Effect for Families

JN1009202190 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 90 p 7

[Excerpts] The system of using family ration cards to obtain basic foodstuffs has taken effect in the city of Baghdad and the governorates.

A responsible source at the Trade Ministry communicated this to INA. The source added: The organizational procedures adopted by the Ministry to implement this measure, which is tied to the organization of economic living, aim at overcoming the aggressive decision imposing the economic blockade on the great Iraq.

The source explained that tripartite committees have been formed at the level of the administrative unit in the geographical patch of populated areas. These committees comprise representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Trade, and the National Assembly. They will write down the name of the head of the family, the number of family members, and full information about the family's residence. Furthermore, the family's monthly quota of basic and essential foodstuffs will be determined on the basis of this information.

The source pointed out that the family's quota equals that of an individual multiplied by the number of family members. The family cannot claim its quota if it does not obtain it from the authorized agents within the month it is supposed to, the source explained.

The measures also include the distribution of families in proportion to the number of agents who exist within the geographical area, by adopting a mechanism that guarantees a fair distribution of families and agents, so as to facilitate the distribution flow of foodstuffs, which include flour, rice, sugar, tea, oils, legumes, babies' milk (for those under a year), and detergents and soaps.

The source also said that through its scrutiny bodies, and with the help of popular control, the Ministry will monitor the activity of agents so as to observe the distribution of commodities and other items to Iraqi families. Moreover, this process will be observed through commercial companies affiliated with the Ministry. [passage omitted]

The source declared that the severest penalties will be applied to agents who violate the instructions spelled out in Revolution Command Council Decision No. 315, issued on 11 August 1990, which considers the monopoly of foodstuffs a crime that infringes upon the national and pan-Arab entity, and whose punishment is execution. [passage omitted]

The source noted that this measure also applies to owners of bakeries who violate the regulations and instructions of production, whose monthly quota of flour will be distributed to other bakeries in the same area; the bakery will be seized and given to anyone who pledges to continue production so as to meet the needs of citizens. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Allowed To Import Without Bank Exchange

JN0609064990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—The Ministry of Trade has issued the following statement:

To enable residents in the Governorate of Kuwait and affiliated districts to import commodities to Iraq and to allow them to meet their various needs, just as other citizens in other Iraqi governorates are doing, it has been decided to allow them to import commodities without having to meet the bank exchange requirement in accordance with Decision No. 52 issued by the Revolution Command Council on 14 January 1988.

Palestinians Asked To Collect Information for Iraq

NC0909104190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned from Palestinian sources that the Iraqi authorities have asked Yasir 'Arafat to instruct the Palestinians residing in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar to cooperate in collecting information about the three states and to pass this information to Iraq.

The Palestinian sources said the Palestinians, especially those holding sensitive positions in the three Gulf states, were asked to provide Iraq with all the information and data about the domestic situation in the these three countries.

Foreign Ministry Comments on Red Cross Requests

JN0809211790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—Commenting on the statements made by Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], in Geneva on 7 September, an official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

Iraq welcomed the ICRC move regarding addressing the humanitarian issues of the regional situation and the initial signals given by the ICRC regarding extending assistance to ensure the continued supply of the Iraqi people with basic foodstuffs, medical equipment and supplies, and medicines. The foreign minister held lengthy talks with the ICRC president in this regard. Likewise, lengthy and detailed talks were held between deputies of the ICRC president and Foreign Ministry experts. During these talks, Iraq displayed goodwill, candor, and a constructive approach regarding the requests submitted by the ICRC. However, the Iraqi side realized that some of the requests submitted by the ICRC infringe on sovereignty and entail an accommodation of unacceptable terms. This is the reason behind the failure to sign any agreement with the ICRC, because the the major point of departure for negotiations confirmed by the ICRC officials was that attempts to achieve any political objectives that would support the views of the Western alliance hostile to Iraq in the course of the regional developments must be avoided.

It is regrettable for Iraq to observe what it perceives to be a misrepresentation of facts in the statements made by the ICRC president. The ICRC officials themselves acknowledged that they cannot demand an application of the Geneva Convention provisions regarding treatment to be accorded civilians, because these provisions apply exclusively in armed conflicts. They added that an armed conflict has not so far taken place. Consequently, their humanitarian initiative regarding civilians was based on the principles inspired from the humane international law, they argued.

RCC Legalizes State Seizure of Private Lands

JN1009181890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Decision number 367 issued by the Revolution Command Council on 7 September 1990]

[Text] Based on paragraph "A" of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council has decided as follows:

1. Agricultural lands fully owned by private natural persons or corporate bodies, as well as lands owned by the state and (?placed) at the disposal of individuals, which are not planted by their owners or others in accordance with the scheduled agricultural density, shall be considered state property without remuneration. They shall be registered as fully owned by the Finance Ministry. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation shall use these lands in accordance with valid laws and regulations.

2. Distribution decisions and lease contracts on state-owned agricultural lands (?shall be canceled) if the beneficiaries from the distribution, the contractors, or those hired to plant the lands fail to plant them in accordance with the scheduled agricultural density.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation shall sell the immovable facilities built on the lands mentioned in 1 and 2 above [words indistinct] the provision of selling and leasing state property no. 32 of 1986. The (?return) will be given to the owners.

4. The following shall be excluded from the provisions of 1 and 2 above:
a. Agricultural lands frozen for the purpose of reclamation;
b. Agricultural lands that have not been receiving their water ration due to (?weather conditions);
c. Agricultural lands within the boundaries of Baghdad city or the municipalities that cannot be provided with water [word indistinct].

5. Courts shall not hear suits filed as a result of the enforcement of this decision, and demands for canceling or preventing the enforcement of decisions based on this one shall not be accepted by any judicial or [word indistinct] quarter.

6. Organs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Local Government in the governorates shall coordinate to follow up on the implementation of this decision (?in full).

7. Any texts in conflict with the provisions of this decision shall not be valid.

8. The minister of agriculture and irrigation may issue the necessary instructions to implement this decision.

9. The decision shall come into force as of 1 November 1990.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

201,967 Volunteer To Conduct Fedayeen Operations

JN0709162290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1425 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The number of volunteers from the central Euphrates governorates as of 7 September has reached 1,017,376 to fight on the side of our Armed Forces against the Zionist imperialist onslaught. Meanwhile, 201,967 fedayeen have volunteered to carry out fedayeen missions. This was announced to INA today by Comrade 'Abd-al-Hasan Radi Far'un, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and commander of the Popular Army in the Euphrates area. [passage omitted]

2 Million Popular Army Volunteers in North

JN1009055090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 9 Sep 90

[All figures as received]

[Text] The northern governorates, 9 Sep (INA)—The number of Popular Army volunteers registered at volunteering centers in the northern governorates has, as of yesterday, risen to 2,175,782 volunteers to defend the great Iraq and face the aggression to which Iraq and the Arab nation are subjected.

INA has learned that the number of volunteers has reached 538,115 in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate; 501,173 in Irbil Governorate; 701,436 in the first Governorate Ninawa; and 133,645 in Dahuk Governorate.

Libyans Volunteer for Battle Against U.S.

JN1009114390 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, Sept. 10, INA—Large numbers of Libyan volunteers reported to the Iraqi Embassy building in Tripoli in order to take part in the battles of honour in confrontation with troops of the imperialist American and Atlantic forces.

Volunteers From Sudan Join Army Training Camps

JN0909164190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Kirkuk, 9 Sep (INA)—The first volunteers from sisterly Sudan have joined training camps. The northern region's Popular Army command has arranged a weapons and combat skills training program for brother volunteer fighters. Another batch of Arab volunteers is waiting to be inducted into the training camps.

Deputy commander of the Popular Army northern command has commended the high spirits of the volunteers and their unbounded enthusiasm to defend great Iraq.

Chanting nationalist slogans, the volunteers from sisterly Sudan declared their willingness to make whatever sacrifices are required to triumph over the enemies of the Arab nation and crush the covetous imperialists and Zionists.

Peasants Exempted From Military Service

JN0709150290 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 7 (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to exempt Iraqi peasants from the military reserve service and duties of the Popular Army.

This was included in an RCC decision issued here on Thursday [6 September].

Peasants Pledge Loyalty, Concentrate on Farming

JN0709150790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] The Central Council of the General Federation of the Peasants' Cooperative Societies has expressed its appreciation and great pride in the Revolution Command Council's decision to exempt peasants from the military reserve service and the duties of the Popular Army with the objective of concentrating their efforts in the field of farming and investing every inch of the new Iraq's land.

The Council sent a cable to leader President Saddam Husayn on behalf of the peasant masses renewing its pledge that these masses will remain loyal. They will mobilize all resources to serve the national economy and defend the holy land.

The Central Council of the General Federation of the Peasants' Cooperative Societies strongly condemned the treasonous, shameful stands of the betrayer of the two holy mosques for conspiring with the Zionist and imperialist forces against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Holy War Call 'Starting Point' for Struggle

JN0809142590 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 8, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of today confirmed that our battle today is a battle of existence, destiny and future—the battle of Arabs against evildoers who try to dash their hopes and aspirations.

The daily called for considering President Saddam Husayn's call for a holy war as a starting point for our struggle for the liberation of our sacred lands from the American aggressors and their stooges in the region. It stressed that dangers threatening the Arab nation necessitate a firm Arab stance reflecting the Arabs' determination to defeat the aggressors and not to yield to any form of humiliation and occupation.

The paper added that the U.S. military presence in the region has realized America's long-awaited strategic goal of occupying the Gulf region and dominating its oil resources. It underlined the fact that this presence does not represent a temporary situation relevant to the current developments in the Gulf. It went on saying that the treacherous role some Arab rulers played was nothing but an attempt to justify and prepare for the invasion.

AL-QADISIYAH further said that the Americans have managed to attain their ends, as they are now occupying the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and some other Arab territories with the aim of turning them into a military base, the second after the major imperialist base "Israel", in an effort to use them as an instrument of threat to the Arab liberation and progress movements.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statements, the daily said that not only did Baker confirm the permanent presence of the American forces in the region, but he also spoke about the United States' intention of establishing a new security system in the region. Concluding its article, the daily expressed confidence that those involved in the conspiracy would undoubtedly regret it one day, and that their aggression would end with an ignominious defeat.

Ne'eman: Syria Will Not Get Golan Heights

TA1109072190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Minister Yuval Ne'eman says that, even if the Syrian president offers Israel peace, Syria will not get the Golan Heights because of the security risk involved in a withdrawal from there. In a meeting with Golan Heights settlers, Minister Ne'eman said that if the settlers are not on guard, the Likud may be tempted to open deliberations with Syria on the future of the Golan. If such negotiations begin, Minister Ne'eman warned, the government will fall apart immediately.

Egypt Seeks Levi-'Abd-al-Majid Meeting

TA1009173090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The Egyptian delegation to the United Nations has asked the Israeli delegation to arrange a meeting between Foreign Ministers Levi and 'Abd-al-Majid during the General Assembly deliberations in New York at the end of the month. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that this morning Mr. Levi sent a cable to his Egyptian counterpart upon learning of the latter's injury over the weekend. The foreign minister will hold meetings in New York with his counterparts from the USSR, the United States, and the EEC.

Shamir: U.S. Delaying Loan for Concessions

TA1109102290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] In his talk with David Levi last week, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker demanded that Israel "stop giving incentives and subsidies to settlers in the territories." Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir finds it difficult to agree to this formulation; therefore, protracted negotiations are expected over a formula that will enable the grant of U.S. guarantees for a $400-million housing loan to Israel.

The prime minister believes that by delaying the guarantees, the U.S. Administration is turning a humanitarian issue into a whip with which it wishes to obtain political concessions. Shamir asserts that the continuing absorption of immigrants is a gargantuan task which no country has ever experienced before, and that the Americans' behavior implies an attempt to hit where it hurts. In addition, the prime minister has notified the administration of his great concern over the large quantities of weapons promised to Saudi Arabia. The prime minister's concern stems from the apprehension that if the events of Kuwait are repeated, the U.S. weapons will fall into Iraqi hands and be turned against Israel.

Levi on Gulf Crisis, International Conference

TA1009153490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said that his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, had told him of his intention to travel to Syria to strengthen the international coalition against Iraq. Nothing will be done behind Israel's back on this trip, Levi emphasized. In an appearance before members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York, Minister Levi said that Baker does not need anybody's approval to go to Syria, but that Baker had still been fair enough to brief him on the trip and had even promised to go to Israel in the future.

Our reporter 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Levi said he intends to send a Foreign Ministry delegation to Moscow in the coming days to sum up issues in preparation for his meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, at the UN General Assembly in New York at the end of the month. There have not been such working relations with the Soviets before, and I hope for a breakthrough, the foreign minister stated.

As for the discussion about an international conference on Middle East affairs at the Helsinki summit, Minister Levi declared: The international conference is gone with the wind; we want direct negotiations. We have not lost our senses, nor have we been sunstruck. We will reach peace with patience and without an international conference.

London Ambassador Attacks Waldegrave Remarks

TA1009190690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Yo'av Biran, our ambassador in London, today criticized the remarks made by William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office's minister of state. The British minister proposed yesterday that pressure on Israel be increased in order to solve the Palestinian problem in the region. Rafi Rosenfeld reports from London:

[Rosenfeld] Minister Waldegrave said yesterday in an interview on British television that in addition to trying to solve the Gulf crisis, an attempt should also be made to solve the Palestinian problem. In my view, that is one of the main reasons for tensions in the region, he said. Greater pressure should be exerted on Israel, he stressed, and he pointed out that the United States is now more prepared than in the past to do that.

These remarks by the British minister were sharply criticized by the Israeli Embassy in London. In response to a question, Ambassador Yo'av Biran said today: The frustation of those who adopted the unsuccessful and useless policy of a dialogue with the PLO can be understood. He described Minister Waldegrave's remarks as a distorted picture of Israel's part in the current crisis. To say that the problems of the Arab world derive from Israel's existence is an attempt to ignore the real causes, Biran said.

Hamas Leader Urges Immediate Iraqi Withdrawal

TA1009134990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Sep 90 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Rantisi, one of the senior leaders of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, yesterday called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait at once and allow the Kuwaitis to elect their own leadership.

Dr. Rantisi, who was released from prison after serving a two-and-a-half-year term for founding Hamas and for commanding the organization in the southern Gaza Strip, said that the movement demands that Saddam Husayn apply the "Shari'a"—the Muslim law—in Iraq and act on it, rather than on his personal likes and dislikes.

According to him, the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is deployed against the Arab states' Islamic movements; therefore, the U.S. troops should be removed from the region.

In April 1990, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Rantisi was moved from his former jail to the Kefar Yona prison, where he was allowed to tend to Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who has been in prison for the past two years awaiting trial. Together with another Hamas activist, Dr. Rantisi took care of Shaykh Yasin. According to him, Shaykh Yasin's health is rapidly deteriorating and he requires medical treatment. Defense Minister Moshe Arens has rejected Knesset Member Hashim Mahamid's request to release the shaykh.

After his release, Rantisi was summoned to the Civil Administration in Khan Yunus, where he learned that the authorities were considering giving him a green identity card that will restrict his movement and will not allow him to travel outside the Gaza Strip.

Military sources said that many of the Hamas members arrested at the beginning of the intifadah have returned to active involvement in the movement, and some of them are taking part in hostile activities. Many of the activists who had been arrested in the past were arrested a second and third time.

Navy Reported To Stop Ship With Suspect Cargo

TA1009125390 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Sep 90 p 3

[Report by Noah Zvuluni]

[Text] Israel has joined the blockade of Iraq: A Turkish vessel suspected of shipping cargo to Iraq was stopped in the Mediterranean Sea. This was reported by YISRA'EL SHELANU [OUR ISRAEL], a New York publication.

The weekly reports that the vessel, which was on its way from Turkey to the Suez Canal, carried large pipes and other equipment aboard.

The Turkish ship's captain was requested by Israeli Navy boats to declare his destination and cargo contents. Receiving an elusive reply, the Navy suspected that the cargo was intended for Iraq. After a consultation between the Navy and senior defense establishment officials, it was decided to direct the Turkish ship to Haifa port.

The Israeli captain instructed the Turkish ship to enter Haifa port, and the Turkish captain obeyed.

The Turkish ship was meticulously inspected by Haifa port customs officers, police, and security forces. After they determined that the ship did not contain equipment for Iraq, the ship was allowed to proceed to its destination.

Palestinians Call for UN Protection in Gulf

TA1009121590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Palestinians in the territories have called on the United Nations to protect the rights of Palestinians living in the Gulf states. At a news conference in East Jerusalem this morning, speakers claimed that more than 55,000 Palestinian families have been expelled from Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf states. More details from Mark Weiss:

According to speakers at this morning's news conference, Palestinians in the Gulf are paying the price for the positions adopted by the PLO on the Gulf crisis. More than 40,000 Palestinian families have reportedly been expelled from or refused permission to return to Saudi Arabia, and more than 15,000 families from the smaller Gulf states. [sentence as heard] Hanan Sharif from Ramallah, an executive member of the General Federation of Trade Unions in the territories, described the situation as the third mass expulsion of Palestinians, following 1948 and 1967. [passage omitted]

Some of the Palestinian families have been given only 48 or 72 hours to leave. It is not known how many of the refugees have come to the territories. Speakers admitted to short-term economic hardships in the territories as a result of the drying up of funds from the Gulf states, but at the same time talked of benefits for the Palestinians, such as greater unity among the Palestinians now. [passage omitted]

Speakers called for the UN Security Council to act to ensure the protection of Palestinians in the Gulf.

Paper Urges U.S. To Curtail Saudi Arms Supply

TA1109110190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Sep 90 p A1

[Editorial: "Give Saudi Arabia No More Weapons"]

[Text] According to a NEW YORK TIMES report of a few days ago, the United States intends to sell Saudi Arabia enough tanks to outfit two armor divisions, per U.S. standards. Is it really necessary to augment the Saudi Army's power to such a degree?

An over $2-billion arms deal has just been agreed upon between Washington and Riyadh. It includes the sale of 24 F-15 fighter aircraft, 150 M-60 tanks, and other weaponry items. Is this deal not enough?

The Israeli Government decided not to protest vigorously against the first arms deal, although its scope exceeded the pattern of previous deals that we had previously always protested. Under the security and political circumstances created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Jerusalem saw fit not to pile obstacles in the U.S. policymakers' path. But the report on the addition of nearly 400 tanks, which are considered to be the most upgraded model of this weapon, will justify protest on the part of Israel. Despite the desire not to make things difficult for Washington, Israel cannot look on with equanimity as the most modern means of warfare are funneled to an Arab country which is still averse to following in the footsteps of Egypt and which persists in maintaining a state of war with us.

Israel cannot be indifferent to Saudi Arabia's security; had the Iraqi Army invaded it as it had Kuwait, it is reasonable to assume that Jordan would have been the third victim of Saddam Husayn's list of planned conquests. Israel is interested in the preservation of a status quo in the Arabian Peninsula, and has therefore shown understanding for the American willingness to respond favorably to Riyadh's request for assistance. However, none of this means that we should remain silent as the Pentagon crams more and more vast quantities of heavy modern weapons into the Saudi Army's warehouses.

Nor is the Saudi Army capable of digesting such quantities and putting them to use; the very request for U.S. assistance proves that the Riyadh rulers realize the limitations of their personnel who are not sufficiently skilled to deal alone with an Iraqi onslaught, if it takes place. Any military move toward ousting Saddam Husayn from his seat of power in Baghdad will be mainly American—even if it has Riyadh's blessing. The Saudi Army's problem does not lie in a shortage of weapons; it is no use filling its warehouses with more and more heavy weapons, because Saudi Arabia lacks sufficient personnel capable of manning and operating them. The Government of Israel does not have to refrain from telling its friends in Washington that it does not agree to the unlimited funneling of weapons to Saudi Arabia.

The Middle East population will not benefit from the end of the cold war and from the U.S.-USSR rapprochement if, as a result, the United States and other Western countries cram the military warehouses of this region's countries with heavy modern weapons that the NATO and Warsaw Pact armies no longer require. Israel is particularly worried by this eagerness, but it is not alone in its concern; all the nations of the region should be worried by this rising trend.

Government's Status Abroad Seen Improving

TA1009193090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Sep 90 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Starting Off on the Right Foot"]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi, a senior member of the Constraints Club, visited Washington as the darling of the United States. President Bush himself took time off from the problems of the Gulf crisis to get himself photographed with the person he viewed, up to only months ago, as one of those responsible for the administration's failure to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon is touring Moscow as though he is not the one who settled provocatively in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev found almost two free hours in the midst of the bread crisis to meet with Professor Eliyahu Zemtsov, who proudly bears the title of political adviser to Science and Technology Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya. Tomorrow, the first delegation of senior officials leaves for political talks in Moscow with the Soviet Foreign Ministry's top echelon to prepare for the Levi-Shevardnadze meeting.

However, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's conclusion that the reception given to David Levi shows that our relations with the United States are improving might be short sighted and somewhat superficial. Gorbachev's promise to Zemtsov that the USSR is prepared to work with any government in Israel, did not immediately wipe out the gaps between the two countries regarding the future of the territories and the role of the PLO in the peace process. There is no doubt, however, that at present Saddam Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat have transferred the most right-wing government Israel has ever had (Tzomet is a member and Moledet supports it from outside) from a rejectionist occupier into a hunted victim.

By using Israel as an insurance policy against a U.S. military attack, Saddam Husayn provides Israel with a comprehensive insurance policy against a U.S. political attack. As long as 'Arafat continues to stick to his Iraqi partner, Shamir can propose a "dialogue with the Palestinians" day and night without fearing for the fate of the status quo and the future of the partnership with Ge'ula Kohen. Baker has to thank David Levi for glossing over two of his questions. Whom would he call on to make up the Palestinian delegation had Levi offered to meet with it next week in Cairo? Even President Mubarak told the secretary of state that 'Arafat no longer represents his people.

It is not a secret that the governments in Washington and Moscow followed with concern Arye Der'i's treacherous maneuvers against Shim'on Peres. They were highly disappointed by the unity government and knew that only the Alignment could lead to an immediate dialogue with the Palestinians. It is possible that they believe progress in the peace process would have led the PLO leadership to behave more wisely regarding the Gulf crisis.

After [Der'i's] "Dirty Trick," the Americans also followed closely the surveys that forecast better results for the Alignment under Yitzhaq Rabin's leadership. The survey shows that each month's aliyah from the USSR promises half a Knesset seat for the right wing and wipes away any remnant of hope that those called "the peace camp" would take over the reins of government in Israel.

The current confusion on the Left due to the PLO's "treason," as well as Moshe Arens' success in reducing violence in the territories, led the international community to reconcile itself to the Shamir government.

The red carpet put under Levi's feet underlines the Bush-Baker administration's pragmatism. The foreign minister was a leader of the group that forced (or helped to force) Shamir to respond negatively to the proposal that was meant to put momentum into the peace initiative again. The price the Labor Party paid for its ultimatum for a positive response to the Baker initiative was to be thrown out into the opposition. Shamir and Arens also paid a price for their rejectionism by becoming personae non grata in the White House and the State Department. By saying "no" to Baker, Levi managed to force Shamir to say "yes" to his demand to take over the Foreign Ministry, and he has now also become the main benefactor in dollar terms.

If the initiative to write off Israel's military debt of $4.5 billion takes on momentum, Levi can take credit for that important achievement. That contribution, which is worth $550 million annually, could extricate the Likud government from several tight spots and force Peres to take back his sarcastic remarks about Levi, who was told to call Baker "Jim." The Egyptians got their $7 billion debt written off.

The latest moves between Jerusalem, Washington, and Moscow show that the two superpowers are prepared to live with the Likud government. If the Likud does not make the mistake of gambling on the idea that Saddam Husayn's crimes will forever exonerate the crimes of the occupation and Israeli rejectionism, it will be able to disarm the Alignment of an important weapon—the fear that the Likud will wreak havoc on Israel's foreign relations, especially its relations with the United States.

A large majority of the Israeli public, especially those who do not feel a commitment to any party, believe that an Israeli Government that is good for the United States is also good for Israel.

Arens Work in Territories Praised

TA1009152090 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Sep 90 p 7

[Commentary by Avi Bnayahu: "A Change Which Is Not a Concession"]

[Text] A few weeks ago when Richard Schifter, U.S. assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, visited Israel to prepare his annual report, he made a somewhat surprising declaration to senior Army officers and journalists: "With Moshe Arens I have found a much greater basic understanding of human rights in the territories than I did with his predecessor."

One must admit this is not the same Arens as in the past. The current defense minister, almost three months on the job, comes out almost weekly with policy surprises in his handling of the uprising in the territories and its Palestinian inhabitants.

Arens has not changed his hawkish world concept or his belief in Greater Israel. He also continues refusing to include in the meetings he holds in the territories, PLO members, people who have served prison terms, or the Palestinian Jerusalem leaders—for he maintains that "Jerusalemites are residents of Israel." At the same time, however, Moshe Arens respects the residents of the occupied territories and hands down to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] clear patterns of behavior for all actions linked to the punitive policy for the territories, and his policy is already starting to show rewards.

When he took over the defense minister's bureau in Tel Aviv for the second time, the IDF General Staff was slightly perturbed. The top officer echelon, as well as politicians and journalists, were concerned that Moshe Arens would order the Army to "uproot the uprising in the territories," even if he words the order in diplomatic terms. There was concern that he is committed to the Likud ministers and the right-wing Knesset members who had criticized Rabin, Shomron, and Mitzna' and for the IDF's handling of the intifadah. They feared that he would give in to the Jewish settlers and that a bloodbath would take place in the territories. That is not what has happened.

On his first day on the job, Arens preferred to visit the Jewish settlers and not IDF soldiers. That move—the publicity it was given and the promises it contained—brought over the settlers to Arens. He paid them "lip service" by giving them permission to operate a "civil defense" in a small number of settlements and ordered the IDF to increase security on the roads and the feeling of safety among the Jewish settlers. Nevertheless, the greatest effort was invested in making life in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as normal as possible.

Yitzhaq Rabin ordered the closure of the universities and colleges in the territories; Arens instructed that they be reopened. Since he took office, not a single house has been demolished in the territories; many dozens had been blown up previously. A senior General Staff officer with whom I spoke this week disclosed to me that Arens does not permit the commanders of the various Army commands to demolish houses. He does allow the sealing up of houses if the owners are guilty of serious crimes involving bloodshed.

Last week, Arens instructed the IDF to take measures to permit the speedy release of 125 Palestinian minors detained in IDF lockups in the territories. The Military Advocate General is already dealing with their release on bail and is speeding up their trials. Within a few days most of the detainees between the ages of 14 and 16 will be back with their families, except for those accused of hurling fire bombs.

The defense minister is also encouraging the commanders of the IDF Southern and Central Commands to compete to see which command has the fewer casualties and violent incidents. The results of the past three months have shown this policy to be successful, although it is not all due to the policy of the defense minister's bureau.

The talks Arens holds with Palestinian public figures in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are held in a relaxed atmosphere of mutual trust. The Palestinians, for their part, claim that the talks are really useless because the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians and the dialogue must be held with it. Arens, however, continues to hold these meetings and claims that "their importance lies in the very fact they are taking place," and that there is a need to maintain an open link through meetings and dialogue.

Civil Administration sources and other security elements that follow events in the "Palestinian sector" and the feelings of the residents, say and write that the residents of the territories think highly of Moshe Arens' humanitarian measures and his policy to return life to normal. They believe that this policy also has an impact on the level of violence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Moshe Arens is seen during his current term as defense minister as looking after human rights and as a liberal—both on many issues linked to the territories, and on the other issues for which he has responsibility. Unfettered by the political views he represents and the political path of his movement and his friends in the government, Arens has an affirmative concept of human rights that cannot be taken away from him. He should be praised for it and encouraged.

After Yitzhaq Rabin ("You give it to them, and I will deal with the journalists and the jurists") he is a breath of fresh air.

'Black Hebrews' Receive Visas, Work Permits

TA1009121690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Sep 90 p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Excerpts] Almost all the Black Hebrew adults living here have been registered and accorded tourist status with the right to work by the Ministry of Interior, a senior ministry official said yesterday.

David Efrati, head of the Population Authority, said 860 adults were registered and had received B-1 visas, allowing them to work.

Efrati, who has relied for his data on Black Hebrew leader Ben-'Ami Carter, said the total Black Hebrew community numbers 1,300, including 400 Israeli-born offspring of members who waived their American citizenship, and about 45 holding non-American passports. Neither the children nor the non-Americans have been registered so far. [passage omitted]

The visas will be extended for a total of two years, after which the ministry will decide whether to send the Black Hebrews back to the U.S. or grant them temporary residency visas. Efrati said some of the Black Hebrews might eventually be accorded Israeli citizenship. [passage omitted]

Treasury, Central Bank Readjust Exchange Rate

TA1109101090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Sep 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by Ziv Hellman]

[Excerpt] The shekel lost 2.8 percent of its value against the dollar yesterday, the day after the Bank of Israel's "readjustment" of the exchange rate, as demand for foreign currency surged far ahead of supply.

The central bank reported that demand for foreign currency outstripped supply by $26.8 million. The bank did not intervene and allowed market forces to decide the shekel's new value. The shekel closed at NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 2.08 per dollar. It also depreciated by 2.4 percent against the currency basket. The final rate stood at NIS 2.3086 against the basket of foreign currencies.

On Sunday [9 September] night, the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Israel jointly declared a 10 percent readjustment of the shekel's "stable exchange rate," to NIS 2.4077 in relation to the currency basket. The shekel's value is permitted to float in response to supply and demand, but the central bank will allow it to rise or fall by within 5 percent above or below the stable exchange rate. This would translate into a maximal value of NIS 2.5281 and a minimal value of NIS 2.2873.

The previous stable exchange rate was set last March and allowed the shekel a maximal value of NIS 2.2544 against the currency basket. This was the shekel's value last week, with the Bank of Israel supplying the entire demand for foreign currency to hold it steady at that value.

Concurrent with the new shekel exchange rate, Treasury reduced the export subsidy rate by 2 percent, bringing it down to 6 percent. The export subsidy is given to exporters for every local product sold abroad and is calculated as a percentage of the shekel value of the export. Bank of Israel officials explained that the move was taken to prevent exporters from making a quick profit from the recalculation of export items in the new, weaker, shekel value.

The shekel readjustment was implemented to avert a run on dollars in advance of Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's presentation of his new economic plan to the cabinet on Thursday [13 September]. Moda‘i and Mikha‘el Bruno, governor of the Bank of Israel, feared that without an immediate readjustment of the shekel, public expectations of new economic decrees would lead to speculation and large scale hoarding of foreign currency. The fact that the public continued to demand foreign currency despite the readjustment led some observers to claim that the public is still nervous about what Moda‘i's plan will contain and might even suspect that a further devaluation is in store. [passage omitted]

9-10 Sep Incidents in Territories Reported

TA1009142990

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 10 September, in a report by Jon Immanuel, Matthew Seriphs, and Joshua Brillian on page 10, reports: "An 18-year-old from the village of Bayta, south of Nabulus, was shot in the back and killed during a clash with troops there yesterday, the IDF said. In the Gaza Strip, a woman who allegedly informed for the Israeli authorities was found dead and mutilated.

"The body of the Bayta youth, Murad ‘Uthman Abu-Sayf, was removed from Ittihad Hospital by his family and buried.

"Palestinian sources said that the IDF entered the village and confronted youths throwing stones. The bullet that struck Abu-Sayf was probably not a plastic or a rubber bullet because it went straight through his body and out through his chest.

"The IDF said it did not know where the shot came from and was investigating the incident, which occurred during a general strike called to mark the end of the 33rd month of the intifada.

"Near Qalqilyah last night, a municipal vehicle was burned after its driver fled when he found himself trapped by men wielding axes, the IDF said.

"Non-violent confrontations occurred in Tulkarm, Shua‘fat and Nabulus, Palestinian sources said.

"In the Gaza Strip, masked youths kidnapped and killed a Rafah woman, ‘Atif al-Nims, 40, on Saturday night, Palestinians said. They hacked off her limbs, and dumped her body on a rubbish heap in the town, police said. "A cell called ‘Rafiq al-Salma’ claimed responsibility, Palestinians said. The Fatah group is named after a man who gunned down 10 ‘informers’ before the General Security Service killed him in 1982, they said.

"Confrontations continued in the al-Shati‘ refugee camp and the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza, after a 65-year-old woman was shot and wounded by a metal bullet on Saturday [8 September] night, Palestinians said. No injuries were reported."

Tel Aviv YEDI‘OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 10 September, in a report by Hayim Broida on page 12, reports that "unidentified people yesterday threw a Molotov cocktail at the courtyard of the Police Southern District command. The bottle, which was filled with contact glue, did not ignite and no damage was caused. Violent incidents took place also in Shu‘fat, Silwan, and al-Tur, where tires were set on fire and stones thrown at police and Border Police forces." The policemen used gas grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the rioters, and a young girl was injured by a rubber bullet.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 10 September reports: "A homemade bomb was detonated last night against an IDF patrol near the Ramallah District village of al-Janiyah. There were no casualties or damage." It also reports: "Last night an IDF soldier was injured in a stoning incident in the Samaria village of Salfit. He was transferred to the Beilinson Hospital." Finally, it reports that "an Israeli driver was slightly injured by glass shards when his truck was stoned near Bayta south of Nabulus."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 10 September adds that "at least seven people were wounded, some of them seriously, in a violent clash between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the IDF forces detained several suspects." The violent clash took place at the Tulkarm refugee camp this morning, and the Black Panther terrorist squad tried to intervene and end the fighting.

Bomb Explodes Near Bus Station; Nobody Hurt

TA1009114490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] A bomb exploded this morning on Hashomron Street in the central bus station in Tel Aviv, near the Merkaz cinema. The bomb was placed in a pipe among bushes. The explosion damaged a nearby car, but there were no casualties. Some 30 suspects were picked up for interrogation.

Badran Welcomes Iraqi Free Oil Initiative

JN1009192690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1837 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 10 Sep (INA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said President Saddam Husayn's initiative to supply needy Third World countries with Iraqi oil free of charge is a courageous, pioneering step in the right direction.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Amman, he expressed appreciation for this initiative, which, he said, shows the Iraqi leadership's farsightedness in regard to the suffering of Third World countries and its concern to lessen the burdens shouldered by people in these countries with practical steps.

Mr. Mudar Badran said that this step has deep meaning now, particularly when the price of oil has risen dramatically. The rise in the price of oil has imposed further financial and economic burdens on Third World countries; this will be followed by an increase in the price of goods imported by the Third World from the industrialized world, he said.

He stressed that this decision comes at this time in particular to abort the moves made by the oil companies and certain oil-producing countries outside the Third World aimed at taking advantage of the situation in their sales and production policy; this affects the economies of the Third World because the industrialized world will always be able to raise the price of its products and will not be affected by those increases.

The Jordanian prime minister said that, in the final analysis, for Iraq this initiative is an expression of true brotherhood and responsibility toward and identification with Third World countries.

Mr. Thabit al-Tahir, Jordan's minister of energy and mineral resources, has said that President Saddam Husayn's initiative to supply needy Third World countries with oil free of charge reflects the Iraqi leadership's appreciation of the difficult conditions facing those countries after the price on the world market has increased to a level that will make it difficult for those countries to secure their needs; this will hamper their development march, he added.

Mr. Al-Tahir stressed that the president's initiative, which he said is a noble step, will have major positive results in Third World countries and peoples in dire need of aid and assistance.

Regarding the distinguished relations between Iraq and Jordan and Iraq's prior initiative to supply Jordan with its oil needs, al-Tahir said: As we welcome this initiative, we must also point out that our supply of oil and petroleum by-products from Iraq has always been subject to special arrangements.

Commentaries View Outcome of Helsinki Summit

Summit Opens Door to Arab Solution

JN1009110090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Sep 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Helsinki Tips the Balance in Favor of the Diplomatic Solution"]

[Text] Having concluded the Helsinki summit yesterday with an agreement to give the political solution a chance and with a commitment to refer to the United Nations for any additional steps toward the volatile situation in the Gulf, it seems that Presidents Bush and Gorbachev have lent a deaf ear to the persistent calls for launching a war, exploding the situation, and excluding the political option to resolve the current crisis in the Gulf. This conclusion is a defeat for all those who have been continuously beating the drums of war over the past five weeks, be they in London, Tel Aviv, or in even some Arab capitals, who recently began to talk about being impatient with the continuation of the diplomatic process and to call publicly for the destruction of Iraqi military capabilities.

While inclined to believe that the Soviet Union has succeeded in curbing the U.S. tendency toward war and managed to control any possible move by Washington through the assertion that the UN Security Council should be referred to, we hope the that the Soviet Union will launch an active and effective diplomatic move. Eventually, we hope, it will be able to raise its proposal for an international conference to discuss all Middle East issues and set the necessary mechanism for such a conference.

Tipping the balance in favor of the diplomatic option after the Helsinki summit opens the door wide for the resumption of active moves to formulate the required Arab solution to the crisis, especially since there is an increasing international response to such a solution. If the Arabs agree about it unanimously, they would be pulling the rug out from under the feet of foreign intervention and they would be able to settle their problems by themselves, based on the spirit of pan-Arab brotherhood and on a basis of Arab traditions of tolerance, justice, and mutual respect.

While viewing the results of the Helsinki summit as the initial sign of a possible state of relaxation in this grave crisis and the hoped-for beginning of political realism on both regional and international levels, we reiterate the call for swift action to hammer out a formula for the aspired Arab solution, given that such a solution is the only means capable of finding a peaceful, negotiated solution to a purely Arab crisis, despite all the current various and large-scale foreign interventions.

Gains Seen Regardless of Outcome

JN0909090790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Sep 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "We Are Not Afraid To Lose Moscow, We Are Afraid It Might Lose Itself"]

[Text] Soviet President Gorbachev and U.S. President Bush will meet today in what we consider the most important of the Moscow Washington summits. Despite this, the Arab masses do not seem as interested in this summit as in previous ones. The reason for this is that the Helsinki summit will have one of two outcomes, both of which are in the interest of these masses.

The first outcome is that President Gorbachev may show respect for his country and all the values and principles that governed his attitude toward issues of right, freedom, and justice. He may also also adopt a courageous attitude toward the mercenary forces' invasion of the Arab region in a manner which befits the Soviet Union's march and puts an end to various accusations that he chose to submit to the U.S. decision. If President Gorbachev adopts this position, he himself will win and we will be pleased that our old friend is still a friend, especially since the mercenary U.S. and other forces in the region are closer to the Soviet throat than to any other throat, excluding the Arab one. Their presence this close to the south of the Soviet Union is a threat to that country, which has succeeded thoughout many decades in preventing U.S. colonialism from reviving the ancient abysmal epochs of colonialism.

The second outcome is that President Gorbachev may give carte blanche to President Bush and approve all the latter wants to do and has already done in embroiling the mercenary U.S. and other forces in the largest invasion ever of the Arab region and in the most ludicrous occupation, which has been concluded in a manner similar to a marriage contract.

Such a position by the Soviet president would also be a triumph for the Arab masses. There is nothing upsetting about losing a friend who is not true to himself and consequently to his friends. Moreover, such a position would stress to these masses that the time has come for them to abandon their unjustifiable bets on others, and to believe in their intrinsic ability to face U.S. colonialism, along with its small or big allies, with a strong will, determination to resist, and courageous martyrdom in defense of dignity and pride.

If Gorbachev says 'no' to the United States it would be a great gain for the Soviet Union and the Arab nation in the struggle to defend its life, progress, and unity. This is what we wish for because we are alarmed by our friends' inability to act in harmony with their policy in support of peoples' struggle, values, and principles.

If Gorbachev says 'yes' to the United States it would be a greater gain for us because it makes us responsible for employing our free, independent, and angry will to direct our wars and battles and score victory even if we have no allies. It would also confront us with the reality of the great and hidden powers we possess: namely, our intrinsic power that fights with its own sword without depending on the swords of others. It fights, supported by God and millions of Arabs, Muslims, and all lovers of right, peace, and justice, and not by the fleets of friends or allies who might at any time renounce our friendship or alliance. We would then find ourselves facing many dangers that we have not taken into consideration.

It makes no difference whether Gorbachev says yes or no. Yet we hope the Soviet Union does not lose itself any more than we hope not to lose it. This great country should not lag behind the U.S. train of colonialism which is currently passing through the continents and is being faced with the Arab nation's insistence on victory, helped by God and its people, over the arrogance, racism, and falsehood of U.S. colonialism.

U.S. Position Toward Country Seen Changing

JN0809093390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Sep 90 Second Edition p 1

[News analysis]

[Text] Several factors have combined to pressure the United States into introducing a major change in its position toward Jordan. The U.S. Administration was obliged to admit that over the first weeks of the Gulf crisis it misunderstood Jordan's position and was engaged in an unfair political and economic confrontation with Jordan. One factor of the pressure was the Jordanian leadership's success in its round-the-clock efforts to defuse the explosive situation and push the crisis toward peaceful solutions.

This change in the U.S. position, as expressed by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, was not a result of a change in Jordan's stance but of the fact that the U.S. Administration itself was abandoning its initial military enthusiasm and discovering that a political, not military, solution could spare all sides—especially the United States—unbearable political, economic, and human disasters.

Fitzwater described His Majesty King Husayn's latest Arab and European tour and his visit to Baghdad as a "pivotal diplomatic effort deserving of support." He admitted that Jordan bore a heavy burden as a result of the Gulf crisis, and added: "We, therefore, are arranging large-scale international support to help Jordan's economy." Fitzwater said that the naval blockade recently imposed on al-'Aqabah port under the pretext of preventing the arrival and transshipment of food for Iraq is now being eased. We know that some goods will leak into Iraq, he said, but this is not a major problem in terms of the overall effectiveness of the sanctions.

THE WASHINGTON POST wrote an editorial on the change in the White House's position toward Jordan and its acknowledgement of the pivotal role played by his majesty's diplomacy. It cited an official U.S. Administration source as saying that Jordan would remain on the list of beneficiaries of the U.S. foreign economic aid program as part of the assistance extended to Jordan to compensate for the damage to its national economy. The U.S. Administration was thinking of cutting off this assistance to use as a threat against Jordan, but Washington found out over the past week that its former decisions had been wrong and that Jordanian diplomacy was a safety valve seeking to spare the entire world a destructive war, the biggest price of which would be paid by the United States.

Column Urges Boycott of U.S., British Products

*JN0909145190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Sep 90 pp 22, 18*

[From the "Seven Days" column: "U.S. and British Interests—For How Long?" by Khalil al-Sawahiri]

[Text] Now that the hatred in us has reached its peak for both the evil empire—the United States—and its meaner, more begrudging ally—(small) Britain—it is no longer possible to keep the issue of striking against U.S. and British interests in the region just as a catchphrase in newspaper columns or a topic we raise in discussion groups and forums. The hour of action has struck; we must implement this slogan, at least as far as U.S. and British goods are concerned.

To do so, and before we review the possible and practical steps regarding this issue, we say that there are many levels one can address to achieve this. These levels are:

First: The official, legislative, and executive parties, the decisionmakers who are authorized to cancel import licenses for products and goods of hostile countries. Alternatives to the necessary goods could be found, either locally or from countries that are not hostile. Unnecessary goods such as all kinds of luxury products can be left out completely as long as we can do without them.

Second: The merchants and middlemen or commission agents who import goods from hostile countries.

Third: The citizens who consume products and goods imported from hostile countries. Ask them to stop consuming these goods immediately.

Fourth: The parties that transport or ship these goods. Ask them to stop their transportation or refuse the facilities they provide for importing them.

Fifth: The merchants and citizens who have assets or investments in these hostile countries, or those who deal with banks belonging to these countries or their branches here, or those citizens traveling abroad. Ask them to stop using the airlines of these countries when doing so.

As for the proposed steps for implementation:

1. Preparing a memorandum—and I suggest that the committee for boycotting U.S. goods stemming from the Professional Unions perform this task. A detailed memorandum on this subject will be presented to the House of Representatives to request a bill banning importation from these two countries to start with (the United States and Britain). There is no harm in adding on any other hostile country in the future.

2. Preparing a list with the names of the merchants, middlemen, and commission agents, and the transport and freight companies which deal with these two countries and contacting them for this purpose.

3. Preparing lists of the goods and products which should be boycotted and informing the citizens of the contents of these lists through newspapers, bulletins, or mosque preachers, as well as guiding citizens to local or other alternatives for these products and goods.

4. Informing the citizens that implementing this boycott is one form of jihad against the aggressive countries that have rallied their forces and fleets to strike this nation's vanguard, continue to rob it of its resources, destroy its future, and prevent the Arabs from controlling their own wealth and national decisions.

Let us start striking at U.S. and British interests right now by immediately boycotting all their products and goods, starting with Marlboro cigarettes and ending with cars, clothes, perfumes, and other products.

Clearer European Role in Arab Issues Sought

*JN0709154090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 7 Sep 90*

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi, House of Representative Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, and several other members of the Foreign Affairs committees of the Senate and House of Representatives met today with members of the European parliamentary delegation headed by Roberto Formigioni, currently visiting Jordan.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. al-Lawzi welcomed the members of the delegation. He pointed out that this visit is considered very important and one of the noblest parliamentary duties, since it is a manifestation of all relations and interests linking the Arab world to Europe—in addition to the fact that it is different by nature from any previous visit, since the region is being exposed to a state of danger, explosion, and destruction it has never before experienced.

Mr. al-Lawzi said Jordan believes in peace and in the need to solve all the crises in the region through peaceful means, beginning with the Palestine question and Lebanon, as well as the Gulf crisis. He affirmed the need to adhere to one standard of international legitimacy on the various issues. He added that the efforts of His Majesty King Husayn during his most recent tour of Europe are aimed at establishing a just peace in the region.

Mr. Sulayman 'Arar expressed his hope that Europe will play a clearer role in Arab issues by taking stands that will help resolve these issues through peaceful and diplomatic means. In this regard, he pointed to the relations of geographical proximity and history that bind the Arabs to Europe.

King Husayn, Indian Minister Discuss Gulf

BK1009161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] India is sending 31 tonnes of food and other items by air every day beginning from today for the next 15 days as a gift to the Government of Jordan. Nine tons of medicines are also being sent by air today. This will benefit not only the Indians stranded in Amman, but other foreign nationals also.

India and Jordan have reiterated their conviction that there is no military solution to the Gulf crisis. During their meeting in Amman yesterday, the minister of surface transport, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, and King Husayn of Jordan emphasized the imperative need to seek a nonmilitary solution before it is too late. The two leaders exchanged views on the present situation and evacuation of refugees to India via Jordan. Mr. Unnikrishnan conveyed to the king the deep sense of gratitude from the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, for the Jordanian assistance.

In the capital, the special envoy of President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, Mr. Al-Shaf'i 'Abd-al-Hamid, today met the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and delivered to him a message from the president. During their meeting they discussed the present situation in the Gulf. Later, briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said that both India and Egypt agreed that there is an urgent need for exploring all avenues to achieve a peaceful settlement within the framework of the UN resolution.

Further Arrivals From Iraq Reported

12 Western Women Arrive

NC1109090390 Paris AFP in English 0838 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, Sep 11 (AFP)—Twelve Western women, most of them Irish, arrived here Tuesday from Baghdad aboard a scheduled Iraqi Airways flight, correspondents said.

Nine of the women were from Ireland, along with two from Britain and one from Sweden.

They had been among thousands of foreigners held in Iraq and Kuwait as a deterrent against what Iraqi authorities fear could be an attack by U.S. or Western forces.

Fewer Refugees Flee Iraq, Kuwait

NC1009135590 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, Sept 10 (AFP)—The number of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait stranded in Jordan has begun to decline, as the effects of an air evacuation campaign begin to be felt, officials from humanitarian agencies said here Monday.

Officials have also noticed a decline in the number of people arriving here from Iraq, for reasons that were not immediately clear.

But they stressed that international efforts to house and then repatriate refugees, principally from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, must be stepped up. More than 100 special evacuation flights left here over the weekend.

The officials also strongly denied reports that cholera had broken out in some of the transit camps in Jordan and said the four to six deaths recorded so far were considered medically normal for a gathering of tens of thousands of people.

Some 62,000 people, nearly all from Asian countries, were living in camps Monday along the Jordanian-Iraqi border and on the outskirts of Amman, according to figures from relief workers.

From a high of 105,000 last Thursday their numbers fell to 80,000 on Saturday, a day on which just under 5,000 refugees entered the country, according to official Jordanian estimates.

The latter figure compared with some 20,000 people who were streaming into Jordan each day two weeks ago.

A spokesman for one humanitarian group, who asked not to be named, also denied reports that tens of thousands of people were waiting in Iraq to enter Jordan.

While the reasons for the drop in the number of those wishing to leave Iraq were not apparent, aid workers said it could reflect anxiety by Iraqi authorities over the future of their economy.

They speculated that Baghdad may be trying to slow the exodus of hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, most of whom are men in the prime of their lives.

Other analysts suggested that many workers may now prefer to remain in Iraq as the threat of military attack by the United States and its allies decreases.

U.S. and Western forces were strengthened in the Gulf region following the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait early last month.

Saudi Border Closed to Transiting Jordanians

JN0909083090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Sep 90 p 15

[Text] Jordanian citizens traveling overland to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Qatar said that last Thursday the Saudi authorities prevented them from transitting Saudi Arabia despite the fact that they held transit visas from the Saudi Embassy in Amman and residence permits for the countries of their destination.

Official Jordanian sources at al-'Umari border point [between Jordan and Saudi Arabia] said that since last Thursday the Saudi authorities have been refusing entry to Jordanian citizens traveling to other Gulf countries.

The sources said that the number of Jordanian citizens prevented from crossing the Saudi borders has varied between 20 to 25 daily since last Thursday and that the Saudi border remains closed to Jordanian citizens residing in Gulf states other than Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Muhammad al-Shanqiti, press attache at the Saudi Embassy in Amman, said that his country had actually started closing its borders to Jordanians holding transit visas for Saudi Arabia as of last Thursday afternoon.

He added that the reason for this is that the Gulf states where these citizens work had asked the Saudi authorities to do so.

Mr. Yusuf al-Sharhan, press attache at the UAE Embassy in Amman, denied that his country had issued instructions denying entry to Jordanian citizens. He also affirmed that his country did not ask Saudi Arabia to refuse entry to transitting Jordanians.

Mr. al-Sharhan said that his country has not and will not issue any instructions denying entry to Arab arrivals. He affirmed that UAE airports are open to all Arab arrivals holding a residence or tourist visa.

Sources at the Qatari Embassy in Amman also refused to comment on the statements made by the Saudi press attache. They said that only the Qatari Government in Doha is authorized to give any explanations regarding the situation.

Ads From South Express Pro-Saudi Sentiment

JN0709104590

[Editorial report] Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 7 September continues to carry advertisements that show pro-Saudi sentiments, along with other more dominant advertisements which reflect pro-Iraqi sentiments. The paper publishes on page 7 an advertisement by Ibrahim Mustafa Abu-'Allawi and his sons from Ma'an voicing allegiance to King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan and expressing support for the king's efforts to contain the Gulf crisis and find an Arab solution. However, the advertisement adds: "Our Arab nation is one nation and our brothers in Saudi Arabia are dear to everyone. Therefore, we appeal to your majesty to maintain intimate relations with Saudi Arabia, which has taken honorable positions on Jordan and the Palestine question."

Another advertisement is published on page 13 of the same paper from Shaykh Hasan Madi Yasin of al-'Aqabah, who claims to represent the Yasin, Madi, and Taha Yasin families in al-'Aqabah. The advertisement voices "absolute allegiance and support" for King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan, wishing his majesty success in healing the rift between Arab brothers and reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis. The advertisement praises the Gulf states' support for Jordan and the Palestinian intifadah, and declares: "We express our appreciation and respect for the refusal of His Majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, to allow the foreign forces to strike any Arab country from his territory."

Israeli Gunboats Fire at Tyre Targets

NC1109084590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] According to security reports from the South, Israeli gunboats approached the al-M'alliyah coast near Qasr al-'Arab in Tyre at midnight yesterday and opened machine gun fire at the Qasr al-'Arab and the nearby groves.

In the meantime, the occupation forces' artillery in the Tayr Harfa triangle illuminated the area as well as the villages of Yatir, Haris, Kafra, and al-Siddiqin. The area extending from Haddathah to Kafr Bibnin was illuminated for 30 minutes after 0100 in the morning.

PLO Promises 'Trial' for Captured FRC Members

NC1009123390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Zayd Wahbah, the political official representing the [pro-'Arafat] Fatah Central Committee in Lebanon, said that the PLO is in full control of the Palestinian camps in the south, after the expulsion of all the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] members from 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

Wahbah said that the fighters of his mainstream group have captured FRC military official in Lebanon Wasfi and FRC Central Committee member Wa'il. Wahbah accused the FRC of shelling 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Sidon, and nearby areas and blamed it for the killing and destruction that took place in these areas.

Speaking at a news conference today, Wahbah called on Engineer Mustafa Sa'd and Sidon leaders to expel FRC forces from Sidon and its environs. Wahbah said: We are in favor of the nationalist and Islamic decision, particularly with regard to any military action. He noted that the captured FRC members will be put on trial.

Foreign Ministry Names New Directors

NC0809060890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, foreign ministry secretary general, held a series of meetings at his office at the Foreign Ministry in Government House yesterday to organize work at the ministry's departments. It was decided that Ambassador Dr. Zafir al-Hasan will assume the post of director of the political affairs department at the Foreign Ministry replacing Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, and that Ambassador Ja'far Mu'awiyah will assume the post of director of the economic department at the Foreign Ministry replacing Ambassador Fawzi Sallukh.

Lebanese Forces Positions Come Under Fire

NC1009060690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The positions of the Lebanese Forces in al-Shaluhi, al-Barrad al-Yunani, and al-Nab' [in East Beirut] came under bursts of machine gun fire accompanied with rocket and mortar shells beginning at 0300 today from the opposite positions of Michel 'Awn. Several contacts were made and the attacks stopped at 0700.

'Awn Tank Explosion Yields Casualties

NC1009195890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Some citizens from the area of 'Arayya in southern al-Matn stated that a strong explosion was heared at approximately 0100 today. They added that the explosion occurred in an M-48 tank belonging to battallion 104. The explosion completely destroyed the tank and caused some casualties among General 'Awn's units.

Sporadic Clashes Reported Between Amal, Hizballah

NC1109074590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Sporadic clashes involving the use of heavy- and medium-caliber machine guns are going on along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines between Amal and Hizballah gunmen. Fierce clashes occurred on these lines last night, and both combatants exchanged artillery duels that covered Kafr Hatta, Kafr Bayt, Humin, and Sarba.

Cholera Kills Seven in Tripoli; 29 Hospitalized

NC0709101590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] AFP has cited medical sources in Tripoli as saying that seven people died of cholera in the epidemic that broke out two weeks ago in the working-class neighborhoods of Tripoli and its suburbs. The sources disclosed that 29 people are undergoing treatment for cholera in various hospitals.

Dr. Samir Kabbarah, a Health Ministry official in the North who had earlier denied the existence of that epidemic, admitted to AFP that cholera has spread into the town. Kabbarah has alerted the ministry's organs that a state of emergency has been declared in the North. Medical sources explained that the epidemic is due to the leakage of sewage water and its infiltration into the city's worn-out system of drinking water.

NATO 'Spy Planes' Permitted Overflight to Iraq

LD1009203290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The command of the Air Force and air defense in the Syrian Arab Republic issued a top-secret document with restricted circulation in which it ordered the 192d Battalion to allow NATO spy planes which take off from British bases in Cyprus to overfly Syrian air space and to treat them as friendly targets which carry out tasks above the positions of the Iraqi Army inside Iraq.

Here is the text of the document: Top Secret. The Syrian Arab Republic. The General Army and Armed Forces Command. Air Force and Air Defense Command. No. 112 TN dated 6 August 1990. To the 192d Battalion. We circulate to you the order of the Army and Armed Force Command No. 322-T dated 6 August 1990. As of 8 August 1990, air targets taking off from point B, which is featured with you on NIKO in the island of Cyprus to point G, which is featured with you in the Iraqi airspace across the air corridor Safita-Palmyra-Dayr al-Zawr outward and the corridor running along the Turkish-Syrian border homeward: You are requested to treat them as friendly targets. We enclose herewith the (?cipher) code of 6 August 1990. Signed: the Command of the Air Forces, the Syrian Arab Republic.

Nation Ready To Send More Troops if Asked

NC1009171090 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Damascus, Sept 10 (AFP)—Syria said Monday it was ready to send more troops to Saudi Arabia if asked to do so by Riyadh.

Presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah, asked here if Syria would strengthen its forces in Saudi Arabia, said: "Damascus has decided to meet any demand by Saudi Arabia for more Syrian troops to be sent to defend Saudi territory."

He declined to say whether Syria had received such a request from Riyadh or whether a new contingent was preparing to join the 1,100 Syrian troops sent last month to help defend Saudi Arabia against a possible Iraqi attack.

Syria, a longstanding rival of Iraq, has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and backed a U.S.-led drive to enforce U.N. sanctions against Baghdad.

Commentary Views Helsinki Summit, Iraqi Isolation

JN1009173090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: If Iraq was looking for a further demonstration of its total isolation from the world community pressing for its immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, the Helsinki summit has provided one. Presidents Gorbachev and Bush have made it plain that they see eye to eye on the need for the enforcement of international law and that big nations are not to be allowed to grab smaller ones. They stressed that they would not abet Iraqi aggression and that they would settle for nothing short of a literal implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The U.S. and USSR presidents urged the Iraqi Government to effect an unconditional pullout from Kuwait, along with the reinstatement of the country's legitimate government and the release of all hostages. Further, they demanded that the entire international community apply the UN-decreed sanctions, and undertook to work together and individually to ensure full abidance by these measures.

While both presidents were at pains to declare their preference for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, they stated their determination to put an end to Iraq's aggression on Kuwait and to take whatever further action is required to make certain that this aggression does not pay. The joint, unambiguously resolute Soviet-American approach echoes not only the will of the international community, but also the Arab will and the emergency Cairo summit resolutions. If it were not for the unequivocal, clear Arab position calling for an Iraqi pullout and a return of Kuwait's legitimate government and the dispatch of Arab forces to defend Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, the position of the international community would not have been equally firm and determined. In other words, the Iraqi Government is coming up against an Arab as well as a global consensus. If Arab states have disagreed as to how to handle the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, all the Arabs are at one on the need for withdrawal. Under no circumstances should the law of the jungle be allowed to supersede the principles and rules governing intra-Arab relations and underlying true Arab solidarity.

The Helsinki summit has left the door open for a peaceful way out of the crisis in deference to the Arabs and the Cairo summit resolutions. However, such an outcome requires a still absent long-awaited receptiveness on the part of the Iraqi Government, which has a unique opportunity to rethink its policies and learn the lessons of experience if willing to spare the people of Iraq and the states of the region the horrors of a new war that may prove even more tragic than the Iraq-Iran war, which in itself was a fatal error of the Baghdad government and has had such negative repercussions for all the states of the region. As the saying goes: One error begets another [words indistinct] the growing economic ills and burdens.

It was in this area that Iraq made its second fatal blunder as expressed in a unilateral decision this time. The international community is resolved to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and not to let the aggressor reap the fruits of its aggression. Furthermore, there is an Arab consensus that Kuwait should regain its sovereignty and that the Arabs should rally to the cause of this small Arab state if Arab solidarity is to be salvaged. If the Iraqi Government has no option other than withdrawal, it may as well accommodate the will of the Arab community and thus spare the people of Iraq and states of the region deprivation and suffering, foreign intervention, and a possible conflagration whose effects may extend to several decades to come.

The Iraqi march into Kuwait has helped all the circles hostile to the Arab nation and its aspirations and struggle. In any case, the Iraqi invasion has hardly helped the Arab cause and never will. Indeed, if anything, the gravest harm will come to the Arabs as a result.

Papers Consider Iraqi Withdrawal, Arab League

JN1109075890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Press review]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Under the headline "The Last Chance," the newspaper TISHRIN affirms in its comment that one look at the Gulf region, which has become a military arsenal ready to explode any moment, makes us clearly see the nature of the crime that has been committed against the Arab nation as a result of the Iraqi invasion. It makes us see even more clearly that there is nothing short of total withdrawal from Kuwait as a first step, for all of us to have an opportunity to contribute toward returning the situation to what it was previously. As a result, we will then have time to find the appropriate solutions for our central cause.

TISHRIN, concluding its comment, says: Will we make any moves before the last chance slips by us?

In another comment, and under the headline "The Arab League and Implementing the Arab Decision," TISHRIN says: The decision to return the Arab League to Cairo was made by the Arab League Council's plenary session in accordance with the provisions of the charter—specifically, Article 10—which stipulates that Cairo is the permanent headquarters of the Arab League.

TISHRIN continues: The Arab decision made at the Arab summit has special significance in maintaining the largest amount of Arab accord and unity of pan-Arab efforts and goals, especially under the current circumstances the Arab nation is going through, in particular the Gulf crisis and its reverberations.

TISHRIN concludes: The Arab decision to return the Arab League headquarters to its first place in Cairo is the decision of the majority. The decisions of the majority in meetings or parliaments have greater power and manifest the required democracy. Most Arabs believe that the Arab League, which was established in Cairo, must be returned there to remain a symbol uniting the Arabs and supporting their causes.

Paper Says 'Maneuverers' Must Act Responsibly

JN0809103290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Damascus, 8 Sep (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial today that the Iraqi regime's swallowing up of Kuwait is a nightmare to this nation, which is plagued by idiots and by complex personalities.

It says the Iraqi regime has been in the habit of initiating Quixotic battles and then searching for objectives and slogans for these battles once they discover that they lack the simplest rationale and are beyond any logical justification.

It is highly ironical, adds the paper, that those who invited the U.S. and Western fleets to protect themselves from Iran and to receive strategic and logistic support for their war with Iran are the ones that are now engaged in the second Quixotic battle with these same fleets under misleading, false, and malicious slogans and banners.

AL-THAWRAH asks: Will Iraq withdraw its forces and, consequently, save itself, the nation, and the Arab summit resolution? Will it comply with the Arab will? Or will Iraq insist on rejecting the Arab and international call despite the disastrous effects this would have on Iraq and the nation?

The paper says that the nation must move swiftly and intensify pressure on Iraq so that it will comply with the Arab summit resolution and withdraw from Kuwait to defuse the explosive situation it has created. The maneuverers who are benefiting from the crisis must abandon their positions and demonstrate some pan-Arab responsibility. The nation must force him [Saddam Husayn] to withdraw, and those who are beautifying death and disaster to him as the right position must stop doing so; they know full well that Iraq's conduct is far from being so. These people want his head and the head of Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: It will not be long before they acknowledge, as they have several times, that Syria has always been right. Events have repeatedly proven that the historic leader, Hafiz al-Asad, has always been right.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Gives News Conference in Paris

LD1009202190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 9 Sep 90

[News conference by President Najibullah during UN conference on Less Developed Countries in Paris; date not given; questions read in Dari by unidentified announcer—recorded]

[Text] [Najibullah] Dear journalists, it is a pleasure to see you during the second UN conference for the Less Developed Countries [LDC's] in the beautiful country of France. I want to express my appreciation and thanks and that of the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan for the warm and sincere welcome and hospitality shown by the Republic of France as the hosts of the conference.

As you know, inside our country, Afghanistan, in January 1987, the new policy of national reconciliation—a complex of economic, social, and political measures—was declared in order to reduce tension in South Asia and end war and ensure peace in Afghanistan. The Geneva Accords were signed in order to resolve the foreign dimension. As a result, the ground was paved for the withdrawal of Soviet forces. Unfortunately, the other side, the opposition and especially Pakistan as a side committed to the accord, did not put their commitment into practice. Armed aggression and attacks were intensified against our country. We had no choice but to mobilize all forces to independently defend the independence, freedom, and territorial integrity of our country. Fortunately, as a result of joint action by the state, party and Armed Forces, and support and backing of the people for them, all the various forms and shapes of this aggression and these military measures, including the coup attempt, were foiled.

Fortunately, today the world has come to the conclusion and belief that despite the predictions and prejudgments made by a number of people that after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces the regime would fall immediately, the regime, as a result of independent defense, proved its ability to survive. Along with this independent defense, our main policy was the implementation of the reconciliation policy, deepening this policy, and the democratization of society and the social and political life of the country. A series of measures were taken in this direction. The state of emergency was ended. Parliament resumed activity after 15 years. A neutral government was formed. The Constitution was amended with new and fresh changes. As a result, political pluralism was accepted as a basis for a political system. The ground was prepared for economic pluralism, the free market, and for internal and foreign investment in all fields.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] charter, that of today's Homeland Party, was fundamentally changed. At present the charter has changed into a general program for the establishment of peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan. It has freed itself from all political limitations and old [word indistinct] ideological effects. The National Front was formed with the broad participation of the political forces.

Fortunately, despite the measures carried out inside the country, the formation of understanding on the international level between the Soviet Union and the United States toward the political solution of the Afghanistan issue is continuously bearing fruit. The UN and other social organizations, from both a political viewpoint and from the viewpoint of rendering humanitarian assistance, did not spare any efforts in this direction.

As a result of all these internal and international factors, and along with the failure of the efforts for the military solution of the Afghanistan issue, the trend toward a political solution of the Afghanistan issue has strengthened. We, too, have proposed a peace program with a mechanism of implementing the political solution of the Afghanistan issue, both at the national and international level. We have informed the leaders of the U.S. and the Soviet Union of this. This program can begin with talk and dialogue among Afghans, and end in free and democratic elections. We have accepted this period as a transitional period. Our proposals include plans which take into account the interest of all involved political sides. These proposals do not give concessions to anay side, but guarantee there will be no abuse and cheating.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan has announced that whatever the results of the elections, they will be accepted, of course, by us and all the sides. The state will never use force and power to change the results and consequences of the elections.

Ladies and gentlemen, in 1970, when the list of the LDC's was drawn up, Afghanistan's name was at the end of the LDC's. On the other hand, Afghanistan is a country surrounded by land. It is 900 kms between our nearest border point and Karachi, that is, to access to the sea. The distance between Kabul and Karachi is 1,500 kms. The per capita income of our country was 187 dollars ten years ago. Our country is a mountainous country; 80-85 percent of its land is mountainous. Only 15 percent of its land is ready for agriculture and irrigation.

Unfortunately, as a result of strategic conflicts, Afghanistan has always suffered considerable financial losses and loss of life. The last decade has been a very difficult period for us. Around 2,000 schools were destroyed, that is two-thirds of all the schools in the country. Roads, transportation, and health centers were destroyed. Livestock was reduced. The total of these losses reach to billions of dollars. One million people were killed, another million injured or maimed, and a still large number of our people suffer as a result of war. Five million Afghan people, one-third of our population, are refugees. That is why the people of Afghanistan do not want war any more.

Therefore, based on this urgent and important need and demand of the people of Afghanistan, we declared the national reconciliation policy, which is fortunately supported by our people. I hope as a result of this transformation inside the country, and as a result of the new climate of understanding which is created at the international level, and the new political detente, the political solution of the Afghanistan issue moves nearer.

I do not want to take up more of your time with this preface. I want to be at your service and reply to your questions.

[Announcer] Question by (?Jawson) from (?Dialogue) publication: How much money is spent on the military in Afghanistan? In view of the changes in the Soviet Union, will the assistance of this country to Afghanistan be reduced?

[Najibullah] Clearly, a large portion of our financial budget has been swallowed by war. As far as all-round assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan, the Soviet Union has signed long-term and short-term bilateral agreements with the republic of Afghanistan. They have been drawn up in accordance with international norms and relations. We have not seen any indication so far that steps are being taken toward the violation of these commitments. You are aware that I visited Moscow recently. I met with the state and party leadership. We came to the conclusion, especially during the meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, that the bilateral and beneficial cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union not only should stay as is, but it should expand and develop.

[Announcer] Question by a Swedish magazine's reporter: What response have you received about attracting international assistance for your country?

[Najibullah] We had meetings with His Excellency [Kenit Dazdi], the head of [Ankat] in this regard. We have come an agreement with them that they will soon send a mission to Afghanistan to study the various aspects of rendering assistance in various spheres. After that, we will reach some sort of specific decisions and resolutions. In general, they promised that, as a result of Afghanistan's three characters—that is, the backwardness of Afghanistan, being surrounded by land, and Afghanistan's position on the top of the list of those countries entitled to assistance—they will not spare any assistance that is possible for them.

Similarly, we met with Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general. During our talks and exchanges of view, we came to the conclusion that they [UN] will also take some effective measures, along with the humanitarian and economic assistance rendered by the Salam project, as well as the High Commissioner for Refugees in co-ordination with [ANKAT], not only for the implementation of day-to-day and routine duties, but to organize strategic and systematic basic plans.

[Announcer] Question by an AFP reporter: What do you expect in regard to Afghanistan from the Soviet-U.S. Summit in Helsinki? Also, you have said that you shall remain in power during the transition period. If your removal brings peace, will you be ready to do so?

[Najibullah] The state of the Republic of Afghanistan welcomes all international efforts toward the peaceful solution of the Afghanistan issue, including the high-level talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. However, Afghanistan is a free, independent, and non-aligned country. It bases its relations with countries on mutual respect for sovereignty, freedom, independence, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. All these are international norms and standards registered in the UN Charter which should be observed by all nations. Only these countries and international efforts can contribute to the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan. [sentence as heard] They should never allow themselves, based on the norms that I mentioned above, to interfere in the internal affairs of another country. The key for the resolution of the issue, in the hands of Afghans, is to create a mechanism for the implementation of the peace program or to prepare the ground for free and democratic elections by means of dialogue and talk. We can say, on the other hand, that a principle side of the issue is the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the other side is obvious, too. The gathering of forces, mutual cooperation, and understanding of these forces will be discussed for the peaceful resolution of the issue of Afghanistan and the establishment of peace in the country. Gathering these forces calls for discussion, not the removal of political forces and personalities. This will not contribute to the solution of Afghanistan's problem and to ensuring peace.

[Announcer] Question by a West German reporter: Taking into account the experiences of the last 10 years, has the meaning of friend and enemy changed, from your point of view?

[Najibullah] I have mentioned before that we have followed the national reconciliation policy from January 1987 until now. The participation of any type of political force to create a great national understanding is discussed in this policy. This includes all Afghans inside and outside the country, along with the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the opposition. I think an enemy of the establishment of peace and the reconstruction of Afghanistan cannot be found among Afghans. They will all move in one direction, that is, the direction of friendship and cooperation. Serious changes have been created in the international level from the political point of view, where human and humanitarian interests are considered above the limited, small interests of groups, politics, and ideology. Therefore, both the national interest of our country and the dominant international ideas teach us that the national and general interests of our country and our people should be above the group, private, political, even party and idealogical interests. All Afghans stand in one front in this cause. They do not recognize any enemy or friend. All are friends.

[Announcer] Question by a French reporter: Please give us some information about the transition period. How long will it last?

[Najibullah] A joint commission will be formed among the Afghans at a high level. This commission will decide how long the transition period should last, and when the elections should take place.

[Announcer] Question by a Swedish magazine, Mr. President Najibullah: In Afghanistan, mostly children are being killed as a result of mines. What measures does your government have in hand for the clearing of mines?

[Najibullah] I should tell you sincerely that except for a number of our military centers and garrisons, which, as is customary in all countries, are restricted and mined, no regions are mined by the Republic of Afghanistan. Those regions previously mined by us and the Soviet Union are all clear. However, we have accurate information that shows that the casualties suffered by our people result from mines planted by the extremists, unfortunately, against all international norms. The reason for this is obvious. They want to prevent the mass return of the refugees and to disrupt the transfer of foodstuffs and primary goods from cities to villages, and from villages to villages. That is why they resort to mining.

However, we have declared the stance of the Republic of Afghanistan for the clearing of these mines. Recently, the UN proposed a plan on its own initiative to train a number of people and elements from both sides as professionals—that is, from the side of the Republic of Afghanistan and the opposition, from the Soviet Union, who will carry out their duties under the UN program after concluding their training. We have announced our full approval and have stated our readiness that this program should become fully successful.

I must tell you that when you look to the ground, please look to the sky, too. You should ask this about the missiles fired by the opposition on innocent people in the cities: What efforts should be carried out by the UN and the international community to prevent them? The State of the Republic of Afghanistan has announced several bilateral and multi-lateral cease-fires and has put them into practice.

[Announcer] Question by the VOA [Voice of America]: What is your view of the conference proposed by the Soviet Union to discuss the Gulf situation?

[Najibullah] The position of the Republic of Afghanistan with regard to the Gulf crisis is that the situation is seriously critical and explosive. The expectation of all humanity, including the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, is that all international efforts, including the conference which you mentioned, should focus on easing this critical and tense situation. This problem should be resolved by political means.

[Announcer] Question by VOA: What measures has the state of the Republic of Afghanistan taken toward fighting smuggling?

[Najibullah] The state of the Republic of Afghanistan has taken effective measures to prevent the smuggling of narcotics, which I also mentioned in my speech to the LDC conference. It is ready, bilaterally or multilaterally, to embark on a joint campaign in various aspects with all countries, including the United States, in this great humanitarian cause, which threatens the health of all humanity. Health and life are considered one of the principle foundations of human rights.

In connection with your question, another question comes to mind about whether assistance should be given to these aims and purposes, and to the society which takes steps toward democracy and human rights. Or should it go to fundamentalism, extremism, [word indistinct] drug smugglers, arms smugglers. In this regard, the choice should be just, democratic, and responsible.

Exile Safi Returns to Kabul With Proposals

BK1009110990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept 10 (AFP)—A prominent Afghan official has ended his exile in the United States and returned here uninvited, proposing he be appointed Kabul's main negotiator with Washington and the resistance. Ghulam Hossain Safi, 57, returned last week to an official welcome by President Najibullah that ended his nine-year exile which began with a daring escape in July 1981 from then Soviet-occupied Afghanistan with four children and his wife.

"Till the last day, one knew I was going into exile," Mr. Safi said adding he escaped because his daughters were involved in anti-government rallies here and on the verge of being arrested by the secret police. "I bring proposals of peace," said the former bureaucrat, who has held several top posts including gubernatorial jobs, prior to his flight to the U.S. state of Florida.

A rich tribal landlord from war battered northern Lagman Province, Mr. Safi and his children addressed American political forums, held demonstrations and formed a now-defunct government in exile in the United States to press for arms cuts to the resistance by Washington and the withdrawal of Soviet troops. He was not included in a list of prominent Afghans granted amnesty and invited to return by Mr. Najibullah in July's Loya Jirgah (grand assembly.)

But since his arrival Mr. Safi has been closeted with the president, Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, Prime Minister Fazle Haq Khaliqyar and others for secret talks, sources said. Mr. Safi, a non-communist, said the government's reaction to his proposal to act as negotiator was "very positive."

Some five million Afghans including prominent personalities and intellectuals fled the country after the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. No large scale repatriation of refugees from Pakistan or Iran has been reported after the 1989 Soviet pullout because of the continuation of the civil war.

Mr. Safi said he would try to persuade all Afghan forces to be realistic and enter into a political dialogue among themselves to bring peace to Afghanistan where more than one million people have died in the 12-year-long conflict. U.S.-backed mujahidin rebels have so far rejected pratically all peace initiatives of Mr. Najibullah, demanding his ouster before beginning any settlement talks.

"The various concessions the government of Najibullah has proclaimed and his willingness to hold elections in order to reach a consensus of opinion regarding self-determination convinced me to return ... And I am prepared to make my contribution to the peace process here," he said.

"The Afghan people will definitely decide for a peaceful negotiation mainly because the people are tired of war, bloodshed and destruction of their homeland and badly need to live a normal life," Mr. Safi, an economist, said. He added that suggestions of a military settlement had been disproved by mujahidin defeats following the Soviet withdrawal. "Najibullah's peace proposals are so far a very democratic approach to a peaceful solution ... It is a reality," Mr. Safi said.

Mr. Najibullah, former chief of the Afghan Secret Police that harrassed Mr. Safi's family, has changed the name and character of his ruling communist party, liberalised the constitution and promised elections to create political pluralism in Afghanistan. Several rebel groups have joined the government, but the seven-faction mujahidin alliance in Pakistan is still waging war.

1,400 Resistance Fighters Surrender in Kholm

LD0809181990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Excerpts] An armed group of 2,000 men led by Mulam Razaq, comprised of 1,400 armed men and 600 unarmed men, from Kholm District, Balkh Province ceased their armed activities and joined the national reconciliation policy recently. According to a BAKHTAR correspondent's report the group was welcomed by Lt. Gen. Muhammad Juma Asaq, Northern Region Operational Group general commander and governor of Balkh Province, and the province's leadership and a large number of people from the district. [passage omitted]

This group was armed with heavy and light weapons and had been operating with the Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi group. [passage omitted]

Rebels Killed in Factional Clashes 8 Sep

LD0809184490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Forty-five men belonging to the extremist groups of Mawlawi Yunis and Wahabi Sayyaf have been killed in some parts of Nehr-e Saraj district, Helmand province, during clashes among the two rival groups.

According to a report by the BAKHTAR military section, in the course of these clashes during which the hostile groups used heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles, another 50 persons were injured. Financial damage was also inflicted on the sides in the clashes. These clashes are still continuing.

Rival Groups Attack Gulbuddin Hikmatyar Convoy

LD1009192890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] A convoy of Gulbuddin's extremist group was attacked by rival groups in Baghlan Province. BAKHTAR's military section reports that all weapons and ammunition in the convoy were seized by the rival group. A number of convoy guards were killed or wounded.

Bangladesh

Foreign Office Summons Iraqi Envoy on Crisis

BK1009130090 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed concern over the reported bar imposed on the Asians, including Bangladeshis, in Iraq to leave the country.

Talking to newsmen in Dhaka on Sunday [9 September], a Foreign Office spokesman said the government is also concerned at the reports of food problem being faced by Bangladesh and other Asian nationals in Iraq. He said these reports caused concern because they tallied with similar reports being received from other sources in addition to the information given to the government by our ambassador in Iraq.

The spokesman said the Iraqi ambassador in Bangladesh, who was called to the Foreign Office on Sunday, and was told of the government's concern in this regard. The Iraqi ambassador, however, denied these charges and said foreigners are only sharing the food and other problems faced by all people in Iraq under the situation.

Spokesman Explains Gulf Repatriation Process

BK1009164090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Almost all Bangladeshi nationals taking shelter in Saudi Arabia after fleeing Kuwait have now been repatriated. All camps there have been closed. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka this afternoon, the Foreign Office spokesman said several hundred who are still there will be brought back home on regular flights. He said 15,000 to 20,000 Bangladeshis [words indistinct] are still in Kuwait City. Internal telephone links are operating and they are keeping touch with the Bangladesh Embassy and with each other.

The spokesman said the situation is gradually improving in Jordan. In Turkey, the situation is much better now. There are an estimated 5,000 Bangladeshis inside the country and another 10,000 are on the Iraqi side of the border. Asian nationals, including Bangladeshis, are now leaving the Iraqi capital in a great number. Although there is no report of starvation, foodstuff is scarce in Baghdad.

The spokesman said several hundred Bangladeshis are reported to be heading toward Pakistan from Iran. He said Bangladesh will welcome any initiative from the SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] or any individual country of this region to joint evacuation of their stranded people from the Middle East.

India

Spokesman Says Iraq Food Situation Deteriorating

BK1009160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The food situation in Kuwait and Iraq has deteriorated for the stranded Indians and other Asian nationals. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that it is totally wrong to say that there is plenty of food in Iraq. He said the Iraqi authorities have told Indian companies to make their own arrangement for food supplies as the country is not in a position to provide essential items to them.

The minister for external affairs, Mr. I.K. Gujral, who arrived in the Hague yesterday on way to Belgrade had a telephonic talk with the West German foreign minister, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and conveyed India's concern and the urgent need for rushing supplies. Mr. Genscher understood the difficulties being faced by India and said that his country will look at it with sympathy and understanding.

UN Envoy Contests Iraqi Claim of Adequate Food

BK1109092690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] India has urged the Security Council to urgently allow it to send foodstuffs for the hundreds of thousands of its nationals trapped in Iraq and Kuwait facing extreme hardships. It has also contested the claims that at present Iraq has adequate food stock. Indian ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. C.R. Gharekhan, told the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council last evening that Iraq has informed the envoys of various countries, including India, to make their own arrangements for supplying food to their nationals.

Strongly arguing India's case that it be allowed to send shipments of food and medicines to its nationals before the committee, Mr. Gharekhan said this humanitarian problem should not get entangled in academic discussions. He appealed the council should not wait to act till there are starvation deaths. He said he does not favor denying food and medicines even to Iraqis. Mr. Gharekhan pointed out that India does not want to bypass the embargo and would abide by the sanctions imposed by the United Nations. He said Indian ambassador in Iraq could take charge of food supplies and ensure proper distribution among Indians. India is also prepared to allow the use of its facilities to countries in the region, so that they could send food for their nationals. He also said that a free kitchen where about 10,000 people used to be fed everyday has to be closed down because of shortage of food. He pleaded the Security Council should meet early to take the decision.

Meanwhile, the Sanctions Committee has asked the secretary general to assess whether the food shortage actually exists in Iraq and Kuwait.

Relief Goods for Nationals in Jordan Airlifted

BK1009135090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] India has begun air lifting food, drinking water, and medicines to mitigate the sufferings of its stranded nationals on the border of Jordan. Air India planes today left Bombay carrying 30,000 tons of mineral water and anti-cholera vaccine to Amman. Regular relief supplies, including food and medicines, will be flown in the next few days.

Asian refugees, who are kept in the camps in the no-man's land between the Iraqi and Jordanian border, are reported to be facing starvation. The surface transport minister, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, who visited the camp recently told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Avinash Goel, on the phone that conditions are deteriorating from bad to worse.

Libyan Minister Discusses Bilateral Issues, Gulf

BK0809033990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] India and Libya have discussed bilateral trade and economic cooperation. A high-level Libyan delegation led by the minister of scientific research, Dr. Nuri al-Faytury al-Madani, called on the commerce and tourism minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, in New Delhi yesterday. They stressed the need for the political will of both sides to help expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of mutual interest. Both the leaders also exchanged views on the Gulf situation.

North Korea Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Gujral

BK0709123190 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] North Korea has expressed support for the resolution of the Kashmir issue on the basis of bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan. The visiting vice minister for foreign affairs of that country, Mr. (Chae Gun Yu), conveyed this to the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, when he called on him in the capital today. The two leaders also discussed other issues of mutual interest.

Maoist Militants Kidnap MLA, Ex-Minister

BK1109034590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist militants] belonging to the People's War group have kidnapped nine persons from the three districts of Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda, and Adilabad. Those kidnapped included one sitting Telugu Desam MLA [member of Legislative Assembly] and a former minister, Mr. G. Rama Rao, and a Youth Congress-I leader and the brother of a Congress-I MLA, Mr. Sharad Kumar. Police sources said these people were whisked away by the Naxalites yesterday. The state director general of police [DGP] said the Naxalites are demanding a judicial probe into the death of a State Road Transport Corporation bus driver and the release of the vehicle seized by the police. The DGP however denied that any vehicle was seized or stopped by the police. The DGP appealed to the extremists to release the kidnapped persons.

15, Including Six Terrorists, Killed in Punjab

BK0909085290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] In Punjab, 15 persons, including six terrorists, and two security force personnel have been killed in separate incidents since last evening. An official spokesman said four terrorists and one CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] sub-inspector were killed in an encounter lasting over six hours near Khade Rajputan in Amritsar District. One of the killed has been identified as hardcore terrorist Sarwan Singh. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including one rocket launcher and six rockets, were recovered from the killed terrorists.

20 Kashmir Militants Killed in Clash With Police

BK1109131190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Twenty militants and a Border Security Force [BSF] jawan [soldier] were killed in an encounter at Kangan Village, about 35 km from Srinagar, this morning. According to official sources, a BSF search party intercepted a bus coming from Sonamarg on way to Srinagar as part of random checking. As soon as the bus stopped, the militants opened fire. In the exchange of fire, one BSF jawan was killed and four were seriously injured. Four militants also died in the encounter. During the exchange of fire, there was an explosion and the bus caught fire. Later, 16 charred bodies were recovered from the gutted bus. The sources said the BSF party recovered a large quantity of arms from the wrecked bus.

Blast Near Jammu Railroad Station; No Injuries

BK1109055990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a powerful explosion damaged a portion of the railway track near Jammu railway station this morning. The explosion took place shortly before a number of trains were about to pass the site. According to an official spokesman, no one was injured. Senior police and railway officers and bomb disposal experts from the Army have reached the site. The Bombay-Jammu-Tawi Super Fast and Shalimar Express and other trains have been detained at (Barhi Brahmanaya) railway station. According to official sources, traffic on the railway track is expected to be restored this afternoon.

'Satisfactory Growth' Noted in 1989-90 Economy

BK1109064590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The Indian economy has achieved a satisfactory growth during 1989-90. According to an annual report of the Reserve Bank of India, the food grains output attained a new peak at about 173 million tons. The industrial sector registered a growth rate of 8.3 percent.

Iran

Iraq's 'Aziz Proposes Reopening Embassies

LD1009111690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister of Iraq, who came to Tehran heading a delegation comprising officials from that country to conduct talks with officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Tehran for Baghdad at noon today after a 24-hour visit in our country. On leaving Tehran, the foreign minister of Iraq emphasized to the voice and vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran the importance of normalizing ties between the two countries, and described the two countries's talks in Tehran as earnest and practical. He said: In these talks, bilateral ties and regional issues were discussed.

Elsewhere in the interview, the Iraqi foreign minister denied that the existing crisis in the Persian Gulf region and recent developments have had any effect on the Iraqi stance with regard to Iran and the acceptance of the 1975 [Algiers] accord. He said: This issue was clearly expounded in the Iraqi president's first letter to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic

Republic of Iran, which was written prior to the development of the new conditions in the region. He added: In that letter it was stated that Iraq favors a comprehensive and lasting peace as well as the normalization of conditions between the two neighboring countries. We believe that our stance is inclined toward peace.

He termed the analyses by some western forums that have linked Iraq's present stances with regard to Iran to the existing crisis in the region as belligerent and vindictive positions levelled against the two countries. It is worth mentioning that in the course of his talks in Tehran, the foreign minister of Iraq called for the resumption of normal relations and the reopening of the two country's embassies, which was accepted by the Iranian officials.

'Aziz, Velayati Agree on Reopening

LD1009132590 Tehrna IRNA in English 1056 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in a brief interview with reporters before leaving here early Monday afternoon described outcome of his talks in Tehran as "positive, serious, practical and friendly."

Asked to comment on Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 accord, 'Aziz said, "our stand was adopted before the current developments in the region. As it has been asserted in Iraqi president's letter, we seek a comprehensive and lasting peace." He added: "We are also for campaign of the regional forces against imperialism and Zionism who have occupied Palestine and are our common enemies."

The Iraqi foreign minister stressed: "Imperialism intends to sow discord among people of the region" and called for measures "to speed up the trend of improvement of ties between Iran and Iraq and exchange of diplomatic delegations." The Iraqi foreign minister expressed hope that he would soon be the host of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, a reliable source disclosed to IRNA here Monday that Iran and Iraq had agreed with the reopening of their embassies in Tehran and Baghdad. According to the source, "Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in his talks with 'Ali Akbar Velayati called for the restoration of bilateral ties and reopening of embassies of the two countries."

He further told IRNA, "Officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran gave a positive response to Iraqi foreign minister's call and announced their consent in this connection." The source anticipated that preliminaries would be made for the reopening of the diplomatic missions of the two countries in a near future.

'Aziz Conveys Saddam Message to Rafsanjani

LD1009132190 Tehran IRNA in English 1118 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—The Iraqi foreign minister who just ended a one-day visit to Tehran conveyed a message from the Iraqi president to President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday and also briefed him on Iraq's assessment of the situation in the Persian Gulf region.

President Rafsanjani thanking the message [as received] said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran while holding on to its stands in connection with the region and Kuwait, is firmly for establishment of a comprehensive peace and implementation of the agreements between the two countries."

The president also stressed the need for speedy demarcation of Iran-Iraq borders, exchange of war prisoners and provision of facilities for pilgrims from the two countries to pay pilgrimage to the Islamic holy shrines in Iran and Iraq.

The Iraqi foreign minister told the president, "Iraq is for a total and comprehensive peace with the Islamic Republic of Iran and will continue to strive to this end."

'Aziz and the accompanying delegation which included the Iraqi oil minister, also briefed the president on the outcome of his Sunday talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran.

The meeting was also attended by Velayati, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh and Iran's envoy to the United Nations Geneva Headquarters Sirous Nasseri.

Karrubi Notes Trend for Better Moscow Relations

LD1009111490 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi advised the superpowers to take measures "to restore peace and tranquility to the region instead of fishing in troubled waters of the Persian Gulf." Karrubi was speaking to the newly appointed Iranian ambassador to Moscow, Nematollah Izadi, in a meeting here Sunday.

The Majlis speaker stressed that the "impudent presence" of the American forces in the region would only serve economic interests of the west in this part of the world. However, he added, the U.S. military presence has never entailed peace and tranquility anywhere in the world. As for Tehran-Moscow relations, Karrubi said that Iran, adhering to its policy of neither East, nor West, was seeking expansion of relations with its northern neighbour.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Returned POW's

LD0909214990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] A convoy of released POW's from the central province, renewing their pledge to the imam and allegiance to the leader, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni in Hoseyniyeh-ye Jamaran this morning.

At the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, praised the liberated POW's for their courage during their years in captivity. He said: You, dear freed ones, passed your test during your imprisonment, and your return to the Islamic homeland follows a victory achieved by Islam and Iran.

While listing the plots and reasons behind the attack against Iran, he pointed to the achievements of the resistance of the people of Iran and reminded everyone: Today, the spirit of his holiness, the imam—may his soul be sanctified—is happy because you, dear ones, have come back to Iran with steadfastness and victory; and the people are embracing you warmly. Your liberation is the outcome of your steadfastness and that of all the officials of the system; and the esteemed martyrs of the Islamic revolution have played a determining role in the victory of our nation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: The imam guided your Islamic front from this very Hoseyniye-ye Jamaran [prayer center in the compound of Khomeyni's resident at Jamaran], and he safeguarded the aspirations for which you were made captive. Our self-sacrificing people too, during the length of the years of resistance, paid a heavy price so that this victory might be gained by all of us.

Now that you have returned with pride you should continue to stand steadfast against all blasphemy, notably against America. We should tighten our belts because we are the imam's children, and we should not deviate for a moment from our Islamic objectives and aspirations. Today, the government faces many difficulties. You should give your all-round support to the government and the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution. God willing, you will be able to raise the banner of Islamic grace and greatness all over the world.

Today, the government is passing through the era of reconstruction. We should not expect all problems to be resolved immediately. We should be aware that Iran's reconstruction requires unity, solidarity, and obedience to the esteemed leader.

Trade Talks Held With Cuban Sugar Minister

Agreement Reached

LD0809184890 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep, 8 IRNA—Visiting Cuban Minister of Sugar Industry Juan Herrera Machado discussed expansion of economic ties with Commerce Minister 'Abdol-Huseyn Vahaji today. Import of Cuban granulated sugar and Cuban technical assistance for Iran's sugar factories as well as cooperation in hygenic matters figured in during the talks.

Iran agreed to export medicine, machinery and a variety of non-oil commodities to Cuba and to cooperate in the oil industry. Machado and his entourage arrived in Iran on September 3.

Government To Sell Oil to Cuba

LD1009133190 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 10, IRNA—Visiting Cuban Minister of Sugar Industry Juan Herrera Machado flew back home Monday at the end of a week-long visit during which he discussed a wide range of subjects. Before departure, Machado told reporters at Mehrabad International Airport that his visit was a boost for mutual economic relations and paved the way for holding of the 1st Tehran-Havana joint economic commission.

Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari who saw off Machado at the airport, said that the joint economic commission will be held in the Cuban capital in mid January. Kalantari said the Cuban side had agreed to cooperate with Iran in sugarcane cultivation and related industries and to modernize the sugarcane mills in Hasht Tappeh Khuzestan Province. Havana would also conduct sugarcane training courses for Iranian experts.

According to agreements reached by the two sides, Iran will sell crude oil to Cuba and send experts to Havana to help remove problems of the Cuban oil refinery, he added. While in Iran, Machado met President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Ministers Issa Kalantari (agriculture), Abdul Huseyn Vahaji (commerce) and Gholam Reza Aqazadeh (oil).

To Hold Joint Meeting in January

NC1009085990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cuban Minister of Sugar Industry Juan Herrera Machado left Tehran last night after a one-week stay in our country and talks on the formation of the first joint Iranian-Cuban economic session. He was seen off by Agriculture Minister Mr. Kalantari.

Before his departure, the Cuban sugar industry minister told correspondents that the purpose of his visit was to activate economic relations between the two countries and said: We think that we have achieved this objective and that our program has been fully implemented.

Agriculture Minister Mr. Kalantari said: Preparations for the joint Iranian-Cuban session to be held in late Dey [mid January 1991] in Havana were made during the Cuban delegation's visit. He said: The type of sugar cane produced in Iran has been the same for 35 years and it was decided to produce the Cuban type.

During his stay in Iran, Mr. Juan Herrera Machado met and held talks with the president and with the ministers of agriculture, commerce, and petroleum. He also inspected the Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Plant and some plants in Arak.

Vietnamese Minister on Visit, Meets Velayati

Discuss Ties, Economy

LD0809180990 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 8, IRNA—Vietnamese Minister and Vice Chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment Dau Ngoc Xuan [title as received] told Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday that Hanoi was willing to expand ties with the Islamic Republic.

The Vietnamese official who arrived here Friday also briefed Velayati on the economic situation in Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular. Velayati welcomed Dau's proposal on the expansion of Tehran-Hanoi ties and wishes success for the Hanoi government in rebuilding its economy.

Confers With Ministers

LD1009175390 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 10, IRNA—Vietnam's minister and vice-chairman [title as received] of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment Dau Ngoc Xuan discussed mutual industrial cooperation with Heavy Industry Minister Hadi-Nezhad-Hoseynian here today. Hoseynian referring to Iran's potential for manufacturing tractors, combines, agricultural tools and various types of train cars and motorbikes, said Iran is ready to export these items to Vietnam.

Dau in response said the two countries can cooperate in many other areas. The two sides decided to exchange expert delegations to study fields of bilateral cooperation. In related news Monday [10 September], Dau who arrived here last Friday [7 September], studied agricultural cooperation with Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari.

Received by Habibi

LD1009175490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Vietnam's minister of state for foreign investment affairs met and conferred with First Vice President Habibi this afternoon. During this meeting, also attended by our country's commerce minister, Vietnam's minister of state for foreign investment affairs conveyed a message from the president of Vietnam to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and congratulated him on the solution of problems between Iran and Iraq. He also thanked the Islamic Republic for its stances on the solution of the crisis in the Far East region and also the Persian Gulf and requested an expansion of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran particularly in the economic spheres.

First Vice President Habibi referred in his speech to the struggle of the people of Vietnam for their independence, saying: After your victory we were always wishing that Vietnam would become an independent and strong country against imperialists. The first vice president referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of supporting peace and tranquility in the Persian Gulf region and other parts of the world, condemned the intervention of foreign forces in the affairs of others, and expressed the hope that relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Vietnam will expand in the political, economic and cultural spheres. [passage omitted]

Paper Comments on Superpower Summit in Helsinki

LD0909093590 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI ESLAMI' on Sunday commented on the superpowr Helsinki summit which is scheduled for today saying it is unlikely that Bush-Gorbachev summit will lead to an all-out military action against Iraq.

More on the summit which is to discuss the Persian Gulf crisis, it said that both superpowers have their eyes on the Persian Gulf, the oil-rich heartland of the Islamic world. But so far the U.S. has taken greater share in plundering oil resources leaving not much for the Soviets. The Western policy has been to deny Moscow an active role in the region and deprive it from a strong foothold.

The editorial continued that the present crisis has tempted Moscow to secure a strong foothold and outstanding concessions. At the meantime the U.S. having sensed this desire of Moscow is trying to exploit it and lead it to a confrontation with Baghdad. But the indications are that Moscow is after major concessions and through its moderate policy towards Baghdad aims to make the West and namely the U.S. understand that their success depends on satisfying Moscow.

The summit can provide Moscow with an opportunity to demand its fair share from the plundered Saudi and Kuwaiti deposits and yet test its chance of gaining port facilities and bases in Saudi Arabia. However, it added, Bush in the summit will be looking for a culprit to share the responsibility of all the actions he is taking for his own interests. Washington sees no way out, but to give a share to Moscow and keep it at the minimum. Bush may also intend to win Gorbachev's support to replace Saddam, the paper pointed out.

These agonizing and bitter realities of the region and the current crisis are the products of attachment to power blocs, a reality that must prompt the nations to realize that as long as the corrupt Arab royal courts exit the region will remain under domination of enemies of Islam. This also must make the nations to curtail hands of any aggressor and take their destiny into their hands, concluded the daily.

ABRAR Remarks on UK Conditions for Ties

LD0909124490 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday commented on the Friday statements of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd expressing Britain's eagerness to restore diplomatic ties with Iran. In an editorial 'ABRAR' noted that the three problems Hurd had described as impediments to the restoration of ties with Iran were in fact British Government problems.

According to Hurd Britain and Iran had to resolve the issue of: "British hostages held in Lebanon, the dispute over Iran's death threat against British author Salman Rushdie and the imprisonment in Tehran of British businessman Roger Cooper." As for the first issue, the daily noted, it had nothing to do with Iran, adding that Iran had repeatedly said it would use its influence among Lebanese Muslims for humanitarian purposes. But, the West should also exert pressure on its elements in Lebanon and on the Zionist regime for the release of Lebanese and Palestinian hostages as well as four Iranian captives, wrote the article.

On the second problem, the daily said that either the death sentence against the writer of the blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses' is a political verdict or a religious decree "its implementation is indisputable". As for the last issue, imprisonment of Roger Cooper, "whom Britain is still referring to as a businessman", ABRAR noted that according to judicial officials Cooper was a spy serving his prison term. However, the daily concluded, problems of Britain were merely linked to its political outlook.

Paper Accuses Saudis of 'Treason Against Islam'

LD1009100290 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—A morning daily Monday urged the world Muslim 'ulema to rise againt the reported latest shameful agreement between Cairo and Riyadh on dispatch of 10,000 Egyptian women to Saudi Arabia to entertain the American forces.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial "Immediate Responsibility of Muslim 'Ulema" stressed that such a disgraceful conspiracy must be foiled from the very beginning beecause "tomorrow is too late."

"Getting killed in attempts to prevent materialisation of this filthy move is martyrdom for the sake of god," commented the daily.

It noted that silence vis-a-vis such a big scandal will mark an eternal disgrace and shame for the zealous Egyptian nation and the whole Islamic world. The article stressed that it was the grave responsibility of the Muslim 'ulema not to allow Muslim Egyptian women to be abused and used for entertainment of the American forces. It regretted that the custodians of the holy places in Saudi Arabia, Saudi rulers, have so far justified their treasons against islam in the context of safeguarding security of the holy land. Even more deplorable, it added, is approval of such treacherous acts by the court 'ulema.

Editorial Opposes Military Clash in Gulf

NC0809100790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "International Community Should Prevent Military Clash in Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Iraq has announced Kuwait as its 19th province. This has come at a time when the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is due to meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Jordan on Thursday to discuss ways for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Another axial point in the negotiations will be the issue of exit of foreign nationals caught up in the Iraq-Kuwait crisis.

International pressure, however, is mounting on Iraq and presently some 88 countries have announced their backing for the full implementation of military, trade and economic sanctions against Iraq.

The Iraqi occupation and annexation of Kuwait, however, is not a regional crisis anymore.

Any communications links that connect the world's most remote parts together in almost no time, is now a global issue and crisis. The repercussions of each and every problem can be felt throughout the world. The increasing condemnation of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait should then surprise no one.

The global community, in spite of all the diversities that separate its members from one another, just cannot afford to ignore that some governments for whatever reason they might have, trample internationally recognized norms, rights and regulations. These regulations are there to facilitate international relations and as such are binding on all members of the world community.

Our world prides itself on having parted with the days that the final say was always that of arms and might. In the ending years of the twentieth century we as civilized human beings must be able to communicate in a civilized way and speak, not through the barrel of a gun, but in a civilized and logical way.

What Iraq has done to Kuwait cannot be excused. The occupation and later annexation of Kuwait by Iraq has come down like a thunderbolt on the world's conscience. Respect for the sovereignty of nations is a must if we are to live in a civilized world and Iraq has violated the right of a nation to exist.

The occupation of Kuwait has confronted the world with one of its most serious crises whose consequences might cost the globe and this highly sensitive region very dearly.

Using the Kuwaiti occupation by Iraq as an excuse, world powers have once again moved in, securing strong footholds for themselves in the heartland of Islam. The presence of so massive an American force in this part of the world will have a very serious negative impact on the relations of regional nations in spite of the many common cultural, religious, historical and economic ties connecting them.

It seems best that Iraq leave Kuwait and forces abandon the region now that they have not yet bogged down in military quagmire. The diplomatic efforts of the United Nations' chief can greatly contribute to such a solution.

All governments too, especially those in this part of the world, should help, alongside the U.N. to prevent a military clash in this very sensitive region.

Paper Says OPEC Increase Harms Members

NC0809103090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "OPEC Move: Another Try To Please West?"]

[Text] OPEC members, not in a unanimous move though, decided yesterday to allow Saudi Arabia and some other countries to increase their oil output to bring down crude prices during the current crisis of the Persian Gulf.

There is now a shortfall of 4 million barrels of oil a day in the global market due to the stoppage of Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports. The OPEC decision means another 3 million barrels per day to compensate for a great part of the loss of Kuwaiti and Iraqi exports.

The Islamic Republic however, out of a logical approach to the issue and consideration of the collective interest of the member nations did not back the decision.

This move by the OPEC appears to be in outright violation of the interests of the members especially the weaker ones that will have no share of the increase in output. It will make them lose a lot of petro-dollars. From this perspective it seems odd, even surprising, why such members did not back Iran in its opposition to the decision.

As the decision is obviously meant to pull down prices, those who might consider it as yet another move to please the West have certainly a ground to stand on for their argument.

The Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis, its political dimensions aside, had shot up oil prices and was as such beneficial to oil producing nations. Most of these nations had been hit hard in recent months due to the low prices of crude.

An attempt to increase the oil output could, however, be justified only on two premises. a) If the Persian Gulf crisis had heightened in a military clash and, b) if industrialized countries had already used up their reserves, and, or, were on the verge of finishing them.

But for a fact the industrial world has enough reserves for over three months. Besides, there is still an ample amount of oil floating on the high seas at present.

But the OPEC, although none of such conditions have materialized, has made its move to make up for the lack of Iraqi-Kuwaiti oil exports. Had OPEC made the move under one of such conditions (military confrontation, or a drastic shortage of reserved oil) the move could be interpreted as a humanitarian one to help the world community with energy needs.

But in the absence of those critical conditions this attempt to increase the output is in fact a blow to the economic interests of the members. The benefits are garnered by the West alone.

Markazi Province Planning Council Meets

NC0709093690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] The Markazi Province planning council met last night in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During this meeting, the Markazi governor general discussed the province's geographic, social, economic, and agricultural situation and its major planned programs. Pointing out that Markazi Province has undertaken the construction of 4,172 temporary housing units in the quake-stricken area of Rudbar, he said: So far, 1,300 of these units have been completed and placed at the disposal of the compatriots affected by the quake. The rest of the units will gradually be built and turned over to other quake victims.

After listening to reports by some provincial officials and the technical assistant of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: We will strive to address, to the extent possible, all the problems that have not been mentioned in the five-year plan. I assign Mr. Mirzadeh, vice president for executive affairs, to overcome existing problems and to follow up on affairs pertaining to Markazi Province. The president also discussed the need to overcome the province's cultural problems and pointed to the need to tap the people's potential.

*Reduced Sentences Proposed for AWOL Soldiers

90AS0360G London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] General Mohammad Sohrabi, commander of the gendarmerie of the country, announced that a plan has been prepared to reduce the sentences of persons eligible for military service who refused to do their military service and were AWOL [absent without leave] during the war. This plan is now being studied in its final phases in the supreme council of war support.

With the exit of the Iraqi forces from Iran and their transfer from the Iranian borders to other sensitive areas of Iraq and Kuwait and the reduction in war conditions in the country, the regime officials have decided to reduce the sentences of those who were AWOL during the war with Iraq.

These reductions include all individual absentees both inside and outside the country.

*Trade With United Arab Emirates Expands

90AS0360N London KEYHAN in Persian
23 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] Trading in various goods and commodities at a value of $405 million last year, the Islamic Republic was the largest trade partner of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in the Persian Gulf. Statistics sources of Dubayy cite the total figure of commercial trade in that free port with Kuwait and Iraq to be about $120 million last year and announced that in the past three years, Iran, with its expansive trade, has taken the lead among the major trade partners of the UAE.

According to a report by the GUARDIAN, published in London, the embargo on trade with Iraq and Kuwait in the Persian Gulf countries and the imposition of regulations to avoid trade with those two countries have brought to a halt the thriving market of commercial activities in Dubayy, and it is anticipated that if regulations concerning the embargo on trade with Iraq are fully implemented, the merchants and trading companies in Dubayy will face significant losses.

The above-mentioned newspaper publishes the report under the title, "Iraq Thwarted in Continuing Trade With Dubayy," and writes: "Saddam Husayn, who counted on hundreds of rapid commercial boats trafficking in the Persian Gulf waters, has now realized that the imposition of economic embargo regulations on his country by various countries of the world will interrupt the transportation of a variety of goods and commodities from the free port of Dubayy to numerous cities of Iraq."

The GUARDIAN, quoting officials of the free port of Dubayy, writes that the officials of the port are prepared to stop the export of goods to Iraq and Kuwait as soon as they receive the necessary instructions from the government. A trade official of Dubayy told the GUARDIAN reporter that based on available information at the time of the military attack of Iraqi forces on Kuwait and the occupation of that country, not even one commercial ship has transported cargo to Iraq.

The above-mentioned newspaper reports: "Between the years 1980-1988, Dubayy merchants exported significant amounts of consumer goods and semi-industrial and industrial commodities to the Islamic Republic and in this way were able to bring in hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign currency to that port."

A trade expert in the Persian Gulf region announced that with the closure of the trade doors of Dubayy to Kuwait and Iraq, the merchants of this free port will try to compensate for the losses from severance of trade with Iraq and Kuwait by expanding trade with the Islamic Republic. The above-mentioned expert said: "The free port of Dubayy has at the present become a haven for smugglers of all sorts of goods to Iranian ports and importing some of the traditional Iranian products to Dubayy." The above official added: "In the past six months, significant amounts of caviar, antiques, gold and silver, and similar goods have been imported by smugglers to Dubayy Port, and in exchange large amounts of consumer goods, including electrical equipment and foodstuff, have left for Iranian ports on the shores of the Persian Gulf."

The expert on trade in the Persian Gulf pointed out that although the official figures published by the trade officials of Dubayy estimate the value of transactions between Iran and this port at about half a billion dollars, if we add the value of the smuggled goods imported to this port from the Islamic Republic and the smuggled goods exported to Iran to the above figure, the actual value of commercial trade between the Islamic Republic and the free port of Dubayy exceeds $2.5 billion annually.

*Over Half of Family Incomes Spent on Housing

90AS0360J London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] "The market of high prices and shortages of housing is nowadays hotter than ever before. Since the beginning of the year, of which nearly five months have passed, there has been an unyieldingly rapid growth in rents for apartments and houses and deposits in the millions among landlords in Tehran. People say that the price of housing and rental rates are increasing rapidly and that any standards or regulations in this area have been disregarded for a long time."

"Landlords have no qualms about asking for the highest rents and deposits. Given this situation, second and third jobs, overtime work, frugality in food and clothing purchases and recreation do not help at all. It must be said that the problem of housing is one of the most fundamental socio-economic issues creating problems in any country, even in the most advanced countries of the world. At the present time in our country, this problem has become so complex, especially in large cities such as Tehran, that it seems that neither in the short term nor in the long term will a solution be found for it."

The above statement is part of a report entitled "How Far Will the Price of Housing and Rent Go?" in KEYHAN, published in Tehran. Sheyda Ardalan, who prepared the report, refers to the population explosion in Iran and the rapid increase in urban dwelling and states that, according to the statistics, more than 360,000 families are added annually to the number of housing applicants throughout the country, whereas only 200,000 residential units are being built by the government and private sectors. Despite the increasing needs of the population, planning in the area of production, building, and expansion of residential units has been very weak.

The report in question states: "Tehran in recent years has grown to the south, east, and west and with the heaviest population concentration (17.6 percent) has seen an influx of more migrants than any province in the country."

Based on statistics published by statistical sources, at the present time, more than 60 percent of the total monthly income of families is spent on housing. According to the principles of international agencies, only 30 percent of the total income should be spent on housing. Apparently the 50-percent figure of the total income of the family which is spent on housing does not hold true in certain cases, because rents and housing fees under the present conditions increase much faster than the average income of low-income families. Therefore, many low-income and middle-income families are forced to live in places which lack even the most rudimentary facilities.

An examination of the situation of housing and rent prices in Tehran reveals a sad picture:

Kuy-e Nasr, two-bedroom apartment with 110 square meters under construction, requires a 500,000-toman deposit, 14,000 tomans in rent. Second Street of Sa'adatabad, two-bedroom apartment with 400,000-toman deposit, 20,000 tomans monthly rent. Shahrak-e Gharb, Phase Three, two-bedroom, 300,000-toman deposit and 33,000 tomans rent. Apadana Street, two bedrooms, 300,000-toman deposit, 16,000 tomans rent per month. Ekbatan Township, two bedrooms with 500,000-toman deposit, 14,000 tomans in rent per month. Naziabad, a 30-square-meter home at 1.2 million tomans without any facilities. Navvab-Safavi Street, a one-bedroom apartment, 300,000 tomans deposit and 3,000 tomans rent. Tehran Pars, a one-bedroom apartment with 300,000 tomans deposit, 5,000 tomans rent.

Nepal & Bhutan

Parties Demand Enactment of New Constitution

BK0909164190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] In Nepal, various political parties and leaders have demanded that the new constitution be promulgated at the earliest. They include three former prime ministers—Mr. Kirtinidhi Bhist, Mr. Tankaprasad Acharya, Mr. Mathurika Prasad Koirala—and the Nepal Communist Party, ML [Marxist-Leninist].

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that the new draft constitution is being presented to King Birendra tomorrow by the chairman of the constitution recommendation commission.

King Receives Draft

BK1009145890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 10 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal received the country's first fully democratic draft constitution Monday, royal palace sources said. The draft, which was prepared by the Constitution Recommendation Commission (CRC) headed by Supreme Court Justice Biswo Nath Upadhyay, was presented to the king at the palace, the sources said.

The function was attended by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, his cabinet colleagues and CRC members representing all political parties. The king passed on the draft to Mr. Bhattarai for his review.

Under the the draft constitution, which will be promulgated after its review by the Council of Ministers, the country's monarch will remain a "nominal figurehead" to act on the advice of the council. Though the monarch will be supreme commander of the Royal Army, it will be controlled by a National Defence Council headed by an elected prime minister, who will be responsible to the public through parliament.

Judicial services will be governed by a council headed by the prime minister and will appoint Supreme Court and other judges on a permanent basis. But parliament will have power to impeach the judges. The Lower House of parliament will comprise 175 elected members while the Upper House will comprise 60 members of whom 10 per cent will be nominated by the king on the government's advice, according to the new constitution.

Pakistan

Saudi Arabia To Supply Crude, Furnace Oil

BK1109044890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide 15,000 to 20,000 barrels of crude oil a day and 160,000 tons of furnace oil per month to Pakistan. The move is aimed at helping Pakistan tide over its energy crisis created in the wake of the Gulf situation. This was stated by the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Lieutenant General, Retired, Abdul Majid Malik, at a news conference in Islamabad today on his return from Saudi Arabia. He said Saudi Arabia has exempted Pakistan from filing of tenders for supply of oil which will be provided at market rate for three months from October to December next. A Saudi team will visit Pakistan in January to negotiate arrangements for supply of oil up to June next year.

Cabinet Defense Committee Reviews Gulf Situation

BK0909142490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi presided over a meeting of the Defense Committee of the Cabinet in

Islamabad today. The meeting reviewed the geographical and political situation in the region, including Kashmir and Afghanistan. The Gulf situation with special reference to the Pakistanis stranded in Kuwait and Iraq and their repatriation to Pakistan were also discussed.

Crisis Hurting Economy; Oil Prices Unchanged

BK1109022490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The federal Cabinet has decided that prices of petroleum products should not be increased at present as it will enhance the burden of the common man. The Cabinet, which met in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, reviewed in detail the fiscal impact of the Gulf crisis on Pakistan's economy. It noted that the current steep rise in international petroleum prices has resulted in a tremendous pressure on the country's budgetary resources amounting to well over 16 billion rupees and on balance of payments amounting to $1 billion at an estimated price of $24 a barrel.

The Cabinet observed that the present crisis could be overcome only with the help and cooperation of the people. It decided that energy conservation measures will be adopted to reduce petroleum imports and fiscal burden. (?According to) these measures, all petrol pumps in the country will remain closed on Fridays. This restriction will not apply to pumps located on national highways which cater to vehicles for long-distance haulage of goods. All shops and commercial centers should be closed at 1930 in the evening on all working days. No illumination should be made at weddings and other ceremonies. The Cabinet appealed to industrial, commercial and domestic consumers to ensure maximum economy in the use of energy to enable the country to absorb increases in the international oil prices as far as possible.

The Cabinet also reviewed the (?status) of cancellation of prohibited bore arms licenses and automatic arms licenses in the country. It decided that exemptions granted in respect of licenses for prohibited bore arms to government servants should be confined to all serving and retired government servants, including employees of autonomous and semi-autonomous organizations in group or equivalent and above.

Government Considers Loan Write-Off Request

BK0909041290 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 7—Four options are being considered at the caretaker Government's policy-making level to meet the oncoming Gulf crisis-related economic crunch, the size of which is estimated to be about three billion dollars, it was reliably learnt here on Thursday.

First, the possibility of seeking from the US an Egyptian-type loan write-off is expected to be probed seriously.

Second, The government would try to get a share of the massive assistance being committed by a number of developed countries for those nations which have suffered the most as a consequence of the Gulf crisis.

European Community and Japan have already announced huge economic aid commitments for Jordan, Egypt and Turkey and the US has written off a loan of 7.1 billion dollars given to Egypt for arms purchase.

Like Egypt, Pakistan has also sent troops to Saudi Arabia, while the Egyptians sent their troops in the very first week of the crisis, Pakistan took its time but it has committed 5000 troops agianst 3000 of Egypt.

And like Egypt, Turkey and Jordan, Pakistan is also suffering greatly from the ouster of its nationals from Iraq and Kuwait from where they were sending in as much as a billion dollars of remittances annually.

And also like these three countries Pakistan's foreign trade is projected to suffer significantly if the tension in the Gulf continues unabated for the next couple of months.

One rough estimate has put the losses at about one billion dollars in respect to foreign trade dislocation and another one billion dollars due to increase in international oil prices.

The caretakers therefore are said to be engaged in preparing a case for Pakistan showing it to be sailing in the same boat as Jordan, Turkey and Egypt in the wake of the Gulf crisis and suffering enough, if not as much as these three countries.

Sources did not rule out the possibility of high-level caretaker delegations going to Europe, Japan and the US to brief the policy-makers there on the plight of Pakistan. And if all these efforts fail, in view of the seriousness of the situation, the caretakers would try the third option and are likely even to ask for rescheduling of its foreign debt.

Fourthly, the caretakers are also looking closely at a combination of all these three options: write off a portion of loan, a small share of the world assistance and rescheduling of part of the debt.

These economic problems have for the time being, distracted the attention of the caretakers from their favourite game of witch hunting and under the pressure of the oncoming crunch they appear to be trying desperately to distance themselves from the Aug 6 chargesheet of the President.

580 More Return Home From Middle East 8 Sep

BK0809160690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Five hundred and eighty Pakistanis, who reached Amman from Iraq and Kuwait, returned home today by Pakistan International Airlines [PIA]. In all, more than 16,000 Pakistanis have returned home so far by 60 special PIA flights from Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The

Pakistani embassy in Tehran has reported that about 70,000 Pakistanis have reached Iran through the Bazergan Post on the Iran-Turkey border. Out of this, more than 12,500 Pakistanis have already reached Pakistan through (Taftan). The camp and office set up by the embassy in Bazergan is providing traveling allowance, medical facilities and other necessary arrangements to the refugees traveling via (Taftan).

Cases Filed Against Benazir Bhutto in Karachi

BK1009154090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Two references were filed against the former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in Karachi today. The references were filed before the additional registrar of Sindh High Court, who has been appointed as registrar of special courts. One reference is on the appointment of an adviser in connection with an Asian Development Bank loan for a power extension project of the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation. The second reference against the former prime minister is against the awarding of a contract in favor of (Rally) Brothers Limited in Karachi. The references were filed by advocate Kamal Mustafa Bukhari which will come up for a hearing before Mr. Justice Wajiuddin Ahmad, judge of the special court.

The references have been filed under article four of the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Disqualification of Membership Ordinance 1977. According to law, the hearing will be held in open court.

Bhutto Decries Filing

BK1109010890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1956 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Karachi, Sept 10 (AFP)—Deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Monday blasted the Pakistan Government after it petitioned a special court here to charge her with abuse of power and disqualify her from next month's elections. The government brought two cases against Ms. Bhutto here more than a month after she was fired and parliament dissolved by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who accused her 20-month-old government of corruption and mismanagement. If convicted, Ms. Bhutto, 37, could be disqualified from participating in elections for seven years and sentenced to up to one year in jail.

Speaking at a press conference Ms. Bhutto said the charges against her were "deplorable," adding: "After dissolving my assembly and setting up special courts to try me, the president has become a judge, jury and executioner." "The charges are without basis and will be challenged ... (They) simply discredit the president further in his pursuit of a political vendetta," she said, adding that she wanted to take part in the planned October 24 elections. "We don't want to boycott them and we hope no such situation will arise," she said, announcing the formation of a People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) to contest the polls. The PDA will group Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) with the small leftist parties Tehrik-I-Istiqlal, Tehrik Nifaz Fiqah Jafria and the Qasim group of what was previously the main opposition party, the Pakistan Moslem League. Ms. Bhutto said the government's move was intended to intimidate her before she submitted candidate papers here early Tuesday for the first of five seats she would contest in next month's elections. The former prime minister also called for the setting up of a judicial commission of Supreme Court judges to look into the conduct of all presidents and prime ministers since 1985. [passage omitted]

Man Planning To Kill Bhutto Arrested 31 Aug

BK1109093690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 11 (AFP)—Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto escaped an assassination attempt during a public meeting in the Punjab capital Lahore 12 days ago, police sources said Tuesday. Peshawar police arrested 22-year-old Sabir Mehmud, an electrician, with two grenades on August 31, they said.

Mr. Mehmud "confessed" Monday he planned to kill Ms. Bhutto because she had failed "to enforce Islam" in the country, police said, adding that Mr. Mehmud told a Peshawar magistrate he bought the hand grenades at an arms market in the northwestern tribal belt bordering Afghanistan. He planned to set off the grenades on Ms. Bhutto's arrival in Lahore for a public meeting, police quoted him as telling the magistrate.

Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) arranged the meeting after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan fired her and dissolved parliament on August 6, levelling charges of corruption and abuse of power. He accused Ms. Bhutto, in power for 20 months, of ignoring her "first and foremost duty of enforcing Sharia (Islamic law)" in Sunni Moslem Pakistan, police said.

People's Party Forms Electoral Alliance

BK1109043490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, Muslim League-Malik Qasim Group, and Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i- Fiqah-i-Jafria at a meeting in Karachi yesterday formed an alliance to be called the People's Democratic Alliance. A statement read out at a news conference in Karachi yesterday evening said the alliance has been formed for the coming general elections and thereafter. Its candidates will contest elections under a common symbol. The leaders of the component parties of the alliance also decided to constitute a manifesto committee headed by Alliance Secretary General Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri. Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the PPP; Air Marshal, Retired, Asghar Khan, the chief of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal; Malik Mohammad Qasim, the chief of the Muslim League-Qasim Group; and Syed

Sajid Ali Naqvi of Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Fiqah-i-Jafria were also present on the occasion.

IJI Enters Into Electoral Wali Khan Alliance

BK1109061190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, an electoral alliance between the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] and Awami National Party [ANP] was reached late last night to field common candidates for national and provincial assemblies. The agreement followed a meeting between Mir Afzal Khan, North-West Frontier Province's IJI chief, and Khan Abdul Wali Khan, the ANP chief, in Charsadda.

Editorial Comments on Helsinki Summit Outcome

BK1109103890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Sep 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The crisis summit"]

[Text] The summit meeting between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev in Helsinki has served to reaffirm the consensus between the two over the demand that Iraq must pull its forces out of Kuwait, unconditionally. However, on the issue of using force for securing this and, President Gorbachev has reiterated the Soviet position that the crisis can be resolved politically, forcing the US President to concede that the two continue to differ on this significant aspect of the matter [sentence as published]. At the same time, the statement carries a warning that if political means fail to put an end to Iraq's aggression, then other steps could be considered. In other words, if the situation does not change within the timeframe envisaged by the superpowers, the US will be in a position to push for a military solution. The emphasis on the role of the United Nations, probably at the initiative of the Soviet Union, could help in restricting unilateral action by the United States. It has also served to push the latter to agree to the supply to Iraq of badly needed food and medical assistance under Security Council Resolution 661. In any case, it is the women, children and the aged who would suffer the consequences of shortages in food and medical supplies well before the Iraqi armed forces.

There is no doubt that at the meeting President Gorbachev was in the weaker negotiating position. Among other things this is illustrated by the fact that even at this crisis summit, US economic aid to the Soviet Union was a subject of discussion. But what is alarming is the Soviet willingness to go along, in essence, with the proposal recently outlined by the US Secretary of State James Baker for a NATO style security network to maintain stability in the Middle East. The joint statement envisages that subsequent to the achievement of the objectives of the UN Security Council Resolution the foreign ministers of the two countries will work with countries in the region and outside to develop regional security structures and measures to promote peace and stability. All that Gorbachev seems to have managed to do here is to slot in the Soviet Union into what is a security framework for the Middle East conceived by the United States and likely to be dominated by it. The pattern can already be discerned in the vague acknowledgement made in the joint statement that it is essential to work actively to resolve all remaining conflicts in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, rather than any specific mention of the Palestinian issue, for instance. It has become obvious that the Soviet Union's ability, or even willingness perhaps, to check US designs in the Middle East is limited. If Iraq and other countries in the region want to avert the prospect of complete US domination in the years to come, they should work, rapidly, towards a solution to the problem.

Scientist Speaks on Kabuta Nuclear Plant

BK1009135790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 90 p 6

[Text] Lahore, Sept. 9—Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, eminent nuclear scientist, said here Sunday that the Kahuta Plant had put Pakistan on the world nuclear map and laid its solid foundation for self-sufficiency in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Speaking on "Pakistan's Nuclear Programme", at a ceremony held to award him a gold medal by the Pakistan Institute of National Affairs (PINA), he said that enriched uranium being produced at Kabuta would be used as fuel in future nuclear power reactors and save the country hundred of millions of dollars.

He said the use of two atomic bombs by the USA against Japan laid the foundation for a mad nuclear arm race which was still going on. The Russians, genuinely suspicious of the American intentions, went all out to have their own atomic and hydrogen bombs. This was followed by UK, France and China.

He said that concerted efforts by the Third World countries supported by some Western states like Sweden; Ireland, Netherland, Switzerland led to a consensus on the urgent need of an international agreement to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. This resulted in the establishment of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] in 1970. About 130 countries had so far signed the NPT despite its highly discriminatory nature, as it allowed the nuclear weapon power to accumulate and enhance their stockpile of nuclear weapons putting severe restriction on even the peaceful utilisation of nuclear powers by the have-nots.

Dr. Qadeer said that China had serious security problems from both the USA and the USSR and had no alternative, but to go nuclear to safeguard her integrity and independence. Things had setttled down and there was a status quo in this matter when on May 18, 1974 India shattered this delicate balance by exploding a nuclear bomb in Rajasthan.

At this stage, Pakistan decided to go alone and self-reliant in nuclear technology and the then government in

July 1976 decided to go all out to master the enrichment technologies. The Engineering Research Laboratories were establlished on July 31, 1976 to undertake the task of putting up an indigenous enrichment plant. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan was appointed as the Chairman of the Coordination Board.

He said a country which could not make sewing needles or even ordinary durable mettled road was embarking on one of the latest technologies. Only seven countries in the world possessed this technology. Of the whole nuclear cycle, enrichment was considered to be the most difficult and sophisticated technology which was a real challenge to us.

He said that his long stay in Europe and initimate knowledge of various countries and their manufacturing firms was an asset. Within two years we had put up working prototype of centifuges and were going at full speed.

He said that tremendous pressure was brought on us and our economic aid was cut off by the USA. An embargo was also put on such small things as rubber rings, magnets and maraging steel tubes. These problems were faced boldly and we increased our efforts to finish the job as quickly as possible. The Western Press, he said, mounted an unfounded propaganda against the programme and a case was initiated against him in Netherlands for writing two letters to two of his former colleagues. The letters were interpreted as an attempt to obtain information which the public prosecutor interpreted as classified.

He said that an enrichment plant needed a lot of precautions of failsafe systems. Once the Western propaganda reached its climax and all efforts were made to stop or block even the most harmless items, we started indigenous production of all the sophisticated and electrical vacuum equipment.

He said "Kabuta is an all Pakistani effort and is a symbol of Pakistan's determination to refuse to submit to blackmail and bullying. It is not only a great source of personal satisfaction to me but is also a symbol of pride for my colleagues."

The scientific community of Pakistan, he said, was genuinely concerned over the performance of the Pakistan Atomic Energy commission [PAEC]. The Commission promised to fabricate indigenous reactors fixing a target of eight reactor by 1990 and 16 more by 2,000, for the production of 1,000 megawatts and 2,400 megawatts of nuclear energy respectively. But apart from the turnkey project of KANUPP [Kahuta Nuclear Power Plant] not a single kilowatt of additional nuclear energy had so far been added to the national grid.

Dr. Qadeer said that PAEC should realise its accountability to the nation and discharge its responsibility with scientific acumen and a spirit of patriotism. Failures in scientific experimentation should make us wiser rather than obstinate.

The nuclear scientist said that the Pakistan enrichment experience had demonstrated that if a nation was sincere and determined to achieve a certain goal, she would do it and would do it so much sooner than anticipated. He said what we achieved in five years at a much lower cost was considered by others unattainable in 50 years. If goal-oriented and sincere effort had been made by the PAEC, they could definitely result in her own reactor in the coming years. "It is still not too late and Pakistan can again show that it can meet any challenge when it comes down to national pride and honour."

Earlier, Dr. Ejazul Hassan Qureshi decorated Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan with the "Man of the Nation Award". on behalf of Pakistan Institute of National Affairs in recognition of his services in the Field of Nuclear Field [as published]. Welcoming Dr. Qadeer and the guests, Dr. Altaf Hussain Qureshi, Secretary-General, PINA said that the nation felt pride in being led by a person like Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan in the field of Science and Technology.

Second Badr Satellite Planned for Launch

BK1109055590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] After the successful experiment of the country's first satellite Badr-I, Pakistan will launch its second satellite Badr-II into space within next two years. Addressing a symposium on Pakistan's achievement in space technology in Lahore today, the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission chairman, Dr. Mohammad Shafi Ahmad, said that very successful results have been achieved from Badr-I, adding that considerable information and data have been collected during its orbit in the space.

Sri Lanka

Government Asked To Evacuate Citizens in Kuwait

NC1009173690 Paris AFP in English 1712 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 10 Sept (AFP)—Iraq has asked Sri Lanka to evacuate all its 80,000 citizens in Kuwait because of an expected "lack of food," Sri Lankan Labour Minister Prema Chandra said here Monday. "Our people in Kuwait—60,000 of them are house labourers—are having only one meal per day," added Mr. Chandra, who arrived in Amman Monday at the end of a five-day visit to Iraq and Kuwait.

He told Agence France Presse that his country would discuss the evacuation of the Sri Lanka nationals with international relief organisations and the European Economic Community. Mr. Chandra said the exodus, via Jordan, would take two to three months. It would be done both by sea and by an airbridge from Amman to Colombo.

"We told our ambassadors in Australia and Malaysia to ask for chartered planes to airlift Sri Lankans from Jordan," Mr. Chandra said. Air Lanka and the Jordanian national carrier had already started two chartered flights carrying 500 people on a daily basis, he said.

Some 5,000 Sri Lankans have already crossed into Jordan and are staying at makeshift camps at the Ruwayshid border point. During his stay in Iraq and Kuwait, Mr. Chandra visited Sri Lankans in Kuwait. "Some 5,000 of them are staying in the premises of Sri Lanka's embassy in Kuwait," he said.

Paper Criticizes Stance on Sanctions Against Iraq

BK1009102390 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 22 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Tea and Sanctions"]

[Text] The arrival, in Colombo, of an Iraqi ship to load tea for Basra has brought some of the drama of the tragedy now being enacted in the Gulf closer to our doorstep. How will Colombo handle the mandatory economic sanctions on Iraq imposed by the UN Security Council? What will it do to our tea trade?

These are questions that are agitating not only the minds of the tea trade but also the minds of ordinary people. Iraq is one of our biggest tea buyers, and has continued to be active in the Colombo tea sales even after the Security Council decided to impose the sanctions.

We have reported that warehouses have been filling up with teas purchased for Iraq and there were more than a few tremors in the tea trade with purchases made but not paid for. The Colombo Tea Traders' Association has extended the 'prompt' date for settlement by the Iraqi buyer, and it is to be hoped that the unpaid accounts will be quickly cleared.

The Security Council resolution permits the export of foodstuffs on humanitarian grounds. The West would argue that this means life or death or starvation. Others could take a different view.

Whatever that be, Ambassador Daya Perera, at the United Nations, has been told by Colombo to seek the necessary clarifications in consultation with other affected countries. He will, no doubt, advise the Colombo foreign office in due course.

The tea export business in Sri Lanka is handled largely by the private sector. With the exception of organisations like Consolexpo and Colombo Commercial Company (Teas) Ltd., which are state agencies, a large number of private sector firms have, over the years, been handling tea exports.

If private companies, who are in business for reasons that are not philanthropic, purchase tea for Iraq at the Colombo tea sale under conditions of uncertain payment in the context of the assets freeze imposed on Baghdad by the West, they are carrying a risk.

If the Iraqis send a ship here and load this tea for Basra or any other port in that country, the question arises whether there would be any interference by the West on the movement of this ship through international waters.

The West is, of course, principally concerned about the outward movement of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, and also to prevent the import into Iraq of arms and other materials of war. We have, on the authority of Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar himself the assertion that no single nation or group of nations is legally empowered to enforce unilaterally the decisions of the Security Council.

As Mr. Neville Kanakaratne pointed out in a recent radio talk, an important legal question must be resolved before U.S., European or any other nation interfered with Iraq's food supply line. That, he said, must mean another Security Council meeting which must empower individual nations and their forces to enforce the embargo.

A Security Council meeting will undoubtedly take time; and a variety of considerations will come into play at such a meeting discussing the enforcement of any embargo. Chief among these will be the self-interest of the various players. These, as Ambassador Kanakaratne said, would be political, strategic and economic, and finding unanimity in enforcing sanctions will be a very complicated business.

The world must not forget the history of previous sanctions. South Africa's policy of apartheid attracted these but did the superpowers send their warships to enforce them? South Africa was able to procure her armaments and, the story goes, some even came from the permanent members of the Security Council!

The Rhodesia (later Zimbabwe) chapter must also be remembered. Those sanctions against the Ian Smith regime were not as enthusiastically or faithfully enforced as Black Africa or the rest of the Third World expected. Ambassador Kanakaratne summed it all up neatly with three words: dichotomy of standards.

Several Killed in Clashes With Security Forces

BK0809092690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0848 GMT 8 Sep 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Two soldiers were killed when terrorists fired at a security forces route clearing patrol in the eastern Batticaloa District, security sources told LANKAPUVATH. In another incident in a cordon and search operation by the security forces one terrorist was killed in the same district.

At Elephant Pass the security forces confronted a group of terrorists. It is believed that one terrorist was killed and four more injured when the security forces fired. It is also reported that in the Trincomalee District the Navy destroyed a terrorist boat, a tractor and trailer.